

**BRISTOL
OLD VIC**

Bristol Old Vic
Theatre School



LOAM

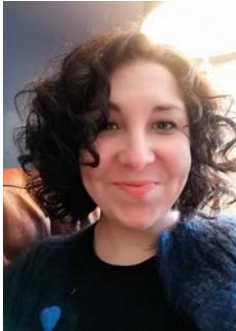
Written by Bea Roberts
Directed by Marcus Romer

Fri 24 June – Sat 2 July 2022
Bristol Old Vic



Photo credit: Rachel Holman

WRITER'S NOTE



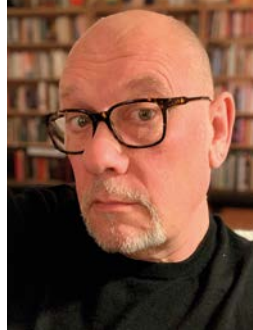
Climate change, the destruction of eco-systems, potential societal collapse; it's a tall order for a comedy writer. Yet, in 2017, I began trying to write about it. It was heavy and distressing - you

know a topic really has reach when you find yourself sobbing over it with a tough as nails retired railroad worker from New Jersey (a whole other story). And, just as in life, I reached for comedy as a way to cope.

I wondered if using comedy could diffuse some of our anxiety and make climate change bearable to talk about. I wondered if we could reframe it to focus less on guilt and more on falling back in love with the natural world we're inextricably part of. I wondered, if we really fell in love with nature would we rush to save it with the same joyful zeal and passion of a romcom hero racing to the airport at the eleventh hour to salvage their love? In 2019, I wrote *Loam*, my out-loud wondering and love letter to nature. I hope you enjoy it.

Bea Roberts

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



It has been a real privilege to work with these talented young people as they prepare to launch themselves into the profession. From the start, it has been a complete team

effort with students from the design, technical and acting courses working together. This collaborative process is a testament to the integrated approach at BOVTS, which enables all departments to play to their strengths and showcase their work on Bristol Old Vic's main stage.

Bea's story brings the climate crisis to the fore. Behind the unmistakable wit, it asks the uncomfortable questions whilst providing an opportunity to reframe, refocus and find new ways in which to connect and collaborate for the benefit of each other and the planet. The collaboration of all the students and staff involved in bringing this show to you is a strong reflection of the power of creative change.

Just an arm's reach into a possible future, *Loam* glimpses into a world in which the solution to the collapse of Earth's eco-systems is that we must simply listen to the planet. After all, you'll soon come to learn that nature has important messages (and music, don't forget the music) to share. Well, we're all ears.

Marcus Romer

THE CAST



Tom Atkinson
Al, Husband

BOVTS: Judge Littlefield in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Station), Donalbain in *Macbeth* (Bristol Old Vic), Corin Blaine in *Absolute Scenes*

(Marble Factory), Harry in *Chicken Soup with Barley* (BOVTS), Gary in *One Minute* (BOVTS), Eddie in *A View from the Bridge* (BOVTS), Lewis in *The Cherry Orchard* (BOVTS)

Outside of BOVTS: Tommy in *Matilda the Musical* (Cambridge Theatre), Nick in *Sex Education* (Netflix), Lachlan White in *Emmerdale* (ITV), Little Eric Morecambe in *Eric and Ernie* (BBC)



Ajani Cabey
Woodlouse, Lover 2

BOVTS: Judas Iscariot in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Station), Paris in *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave Theatre), Designated Driver in *Absolute*

Scenes (Marble Factory), Telegraph Operator in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (BOVTS Online), Rodolpho in *A View from the Bridge* (BOVTS), Sailor in *Live Like Pigs* (BOVTS), Robert in *One Minute* (BOVTS)

Outside of BOVTS: Leon in *Pickney* (Blak Wave Productions)



Phoebe Cook
Chanel, Asda DJ

BOVTS: Kali in *Stockholm* (Wardrobe Theatre), Caroline Bingley/Mrs Reynolds in *Pride & Prejudice* (The Mount Without), Lady Macduff/

Captain/Murderer/Young Siward in *Macbeth* (Bristol Old Vic), Chrissy in *Pull Up the Roots* (BOVTS), Drunk Friend for hire in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory), Penelope Twinkletime in *The Pied Piper* (BOVTS Online), Rainey in *The Cherry Orchard* (BOVTS), Sarah in *Chicken Soup with Barley* (BOVTS), Catherine in *A View from the Bridge* (BOVTS), Anne Shults in *One Minute* (BOVTS), Ellen in *Sidelined* (Christchurch Studios), Samantha/Sarah in *Last One Out* (Christchurch Studios)

Outside of BOVTS: Ensemble in *Pericles R&D* (National Theatre), Student Protestor/Ensemble in *Zigger Zagger* (Wiltons Music Hall)



Becca Hargreaves
Becca, Bather

BOVTS: Viv in *Jumpers for Goalposts* (Wardrobe Theatre), Fabiana Aziza Cunningham in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Station), Witch/Caithness

in *Macbeth* (Bristol Old Vic), Ernest's Mother in *The Gashly Tinties* (BOVTS), Stay in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory), Danielle in *I Hate Alone* (Wardrobe Theatre), Molly the Innkeeper in *The Pied Piper* (BOVTS), Nora in *Nora: A Dolls House* (BOVTS), Beatrice in *A View from the Bridge* (BOVTS), Mrs Sullen in *The Beau's Stratagem* (BOVTS), Olivia in *Twelfth Night* (BOVTS), Robyn in *Meet Me at Dawn* (BOVTS), Liz in *The Prang* (Christchurch Studios)

Outside of BOVTS: 12 in *The Sonnet Walks* (The Globe), Scarlett in *Looking for Blue* (Amanda Roocroft Theatre), Eliza in *Pygmalion* (Amanda Roocroft Theatre), Gravedigger in *Hamlet* (Amanda Roocroft Theatre), Gusta Green in *Mr Pomfret's Puzzle*, Reporter in *The Freedom of the Moors*



Rebecca Hyde Mrs Paulson, Sam, Caller 2

BOVTS: Elizabeth in *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (Wardrobe Theatre), Mrs. Bennet in *Pride & Prejudice* (The Mount Without), Lynn-Enderby

Williams II in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory), Chloe in *I Hate Alone* (Wardrobe Theatre), Linny in *Pull Up the Roots* (BOVTS), Arkadina in *The Three Seagulls* (Bristol Old Vic), Old Croaker/Mrs Jackson in *Live Like Pigs* (BOVTS), Olivia in *Twelfth Night* (BOVTS), Beatrice Carbone in *A View from the Bridge* (BOVTS), Dr Anne Schults in *One Minute* (BOVTS), Elizabeth in *Jumping Through Hoops* (Christchurch Studios), Karen in *Last One Out* (Christchurch Studios)

Outside of BOVTS: Gwen in *Gathering Dust* (The Lion and Unicorn), Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* (RADA), Tekla in *Creditors* (RADA)



Yazmin Kayani
Dani, Yann, Caller 3

BOVTS: Ophelia/The Gravedigger in *Hamlet* (Wardrobe Theatre), Mother Teresa/Loretta/Soldier 2 in *The Last Days of Judas*

Iscaariot (The Station), Jo in *The One* (BOVTS), Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave Theatre), High Bound Mic in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory), Rachel in *Toy Plastic Chicken* (Wardrobe Theatre), Captain Nemo in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (BOVTS Online), Gene/ Mrs Nelson in *Girl from the North Country* (BOVTS), Helen in *Meet Me at Dawn* (BOVTS), Ensemble in *The Bloody Chamber* (BOVTS), Zoe in *Jumping Through Hoops* (Christchurch Studios)

Outside of BOVTS: Sara in *Scar Tissue* (Paradox Theatre Co), Ensemble in *All By Myself* (Brize Norton Theatre), Old Man in *La Biblioteca* (John Rylands Library), Ensemble in *Dystopia* (Contact Theatre), Ensemble in *Runaway Shadows* (Contact Theatre), Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* (Pendleton College)



Patrick McAndrew
Professor Wynn

BOVTS: Sigmund Freud/Butch Honeywell in *The Last Days of Judas Iscaariot* (The Station), Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave Theatre),

Sirius in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory), Wally in *Pied Piper* (BOVTS Online), Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* (BOVTS), Reverend Marlowe in *Girl from the North Country* (BOVTS), Jimmy Porter in *Look Back in Anger* (BOVTS), Ceri in *The Cherry Orchard* (BOVTS), Mirabell in *The Way of the World* (BOVTS), Gary Burroughs in *One Minute* (BOVTS), Chris in *The Prang* (BOVTS), Johnny in *Last One Out* (Christchurch Studios)



Shivam Pallana
Del, Lover 1, Agitator 2

BOVTS: Hamlet in *Hamlet* (Wardrobe Theatre), Mr Darcy in *Pride & Prejudice* (The Mount Without), Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave Theatre), Rosie in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory), Konstantin/ Various in *The Seagull* (BOVTS), Marco in *A View from the Bridge* (BOVTS), Various in *Look Back in Anger* (BOVTS), Various in *Twelfth Night* (BOVTS), Robin in *Meet Me at Dawn* (BOVTS), Bobby in *Sense of Occasion* (Christchurch Studios)

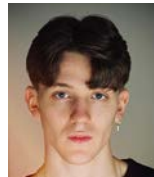


Anna-Sophia Tutton
Alex, News Anchor, Automated Voice

BOVTS: Kitty in *How My Light is Spent* (Wardrobe Theatre), Mrs Gardiner in *Pride & Prejudice* (The

Mount Without), Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave Theatre), Arkadina in *The Seagull* (BOVTS), Normal Carol in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory), Marie Fournier in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (BOVTS), Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (BOVTS), Dorinda in *The Beaux' Stratagem* (BOVTS), Robyn in *Meet Me at Dawn* (BOVTS), Rachel in *Live Like Pigs* (BOVTS), Elizabeth in *Girl from the North Country* (BOVTS), Kim in *Sense of Occasion* (Christchurch Studios), Samantha in *Last One Out* (Christchurch Studios)

Outside of BOVTS: Catrin in *Generation Zero* (Swansea Grand Theatre)



Taylor Uttley
Government Minister, Agitator, Caller 4

BOVTS: Sir William/Lady Catherine in *Pride & Prejudice* (The Mount Without), Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave

Theatre), Regret in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory), Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* (BOVTS), Ned Land in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (BOVTS Online), Alun in *The Cherry Orchard* (BOVTS), Col in *Live Like Pigs* (BOVTS), Rodolpho in *A View from the Bridge* (BOVTS), Scott in *One Minute* (BOVTS), Tino in *Sense of Occasion* (Christchurch Studios)



Monsikelah Ward
Heather, Caller 1

BOVTS: Charlotte Lucas/ Georgiana Darcy in *Pride & Prejudice* (The Mount Without), Duncan in *Macbeth* (Bristol Old Vic), Patience/ Ghost in *Absolute Scenes* (Marble Factory),

Chef in *Chef* (Wardrobe Theatre), Christine in *Nora: A Doll's House* (BOVTS), Marianna Laine in *Girl from the North Country* (BOVTS), Sophie in *Sense of Occasion* (Christchurch Studios), Myself in *Transcendence* (BOVTS), Chef in *Echo Deep* (Christchurch Studios)

Outside of BOVTS: Mary/older Sarah/Bryce/ Journee/Faye in *BFI Screenwriting Academy Shorts* (Cherry Duck Studios)

CREATIVES

Writer	Bea Roberts*
Director	Marcus Romer*
Assistant Directors	Yuxuan Liu & Ben Nash
Set Designer	Olivia Jamieson
Costume and Projection Designer	Hazel McIntosh
Lighting and Projection Designer	Hugo Dodsworth
Movement Director	Joël Daniel†
Vocal Coach	Rebecca Daltry
Production Manager	Steve O'Brien†
Assistant Production Manager	Joe Culpin
Production Supervisor	Bryony Rutter†
Stage Manager / AV Programmer	Frances Ashton
Deputy Stage Manager	Rosie Maynard
Assistant Stage Manager	Joe Collins, Elspeth Goodman, Christian Stuckey
Production LX	Chris Davies
Lighting Operator	Adrienne Broadgate
Sound Designer and Composer	Hannah Bracegirdle
Sound and AV Operator	Nancy Strahan
Prop Supervisor	Meriel Pym†
Prop Makers	Isabella Keating, Jess Way
Construction Managers	Andy Scrivens† & Rhys Gillard*
Construction Assistants	Adrienne Broadgate, Jocelyn Chen, Willow Digweed, Millie Edinburgh, Iona Hicks, Muir McFadden, Sally Strong
Costume Supervisor	Saskia Bath
Costume Makers	Lois Edmunds†, Ruth Ferns-Duncan, Charly Riddett, Angelica Robinson
Costume Assistants	Bethany Boldero, Shanice Dacres, Elle Duncan, Gracie Green, Jo Kenney, Charly Riddett, Kim White, Arthur Wyatt
Dressers	Bethany Boldero, Gracie Green, Charly Riddett
Hair and Make Up Designer	Sophia Khan†
Scenic Artists	Jo Browne*, Cliffe Thorne*, Tom Crossley-Thorne*, Jen Stoner*

With special thanks to Stephen Houghton at Vaccentre.net; Bristol's local expert in all aspects of vacuum cleaner repairs and servicing; and Ian Penny, Workshop Coordinator at Bristol Old Vic.

* Visiting industry professional; † BOVTS staff; all other roles are fulfilled by students on the Theatre School's production and technical courses. To find out more about training at BOVTS, please visit oldvic.ac.uk/course-finder.

This production of *Loam* is licensed by arrangement with The Agency, 24 Pottery Lane, Holland Park, London W11 4LZ



Bea Roberts
Writer

Bea Roberts is a multi-award-winning scriptwriter and lyricist from the West Country. She has written for stage and screen, musical theatre and family shows showcasing her anarchic sensibility and natural bent towards irreverent, dark comedy.

As well as developing original new comedy and comedy-drama series for TV, Bea is currently under commission with the National Theatre, English Touring Theatre, Theatre Royal Plymouth, the Stephen Joseph Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company.



Marcus Romer
Director

Marcus is an award-winning director, producer, writer and filmmaker. Since 2008, Marcus has been a pioneer of digital theatre. Most recently, he produced the cinema broadcast of Graeae Theatre's *Reasons to be Cheerful*. In 2014, he adapted and directed *The Knife That Killed Me*, a new feature film for Universal Pictures which opened at Rome Film Festival.

Thanks to his time spent as Artistic Director of Pilot Theatre, a national touring company, he has had the pleasure of directing work in almost every main house theatre in the country. However, he is particularly delighted to be returning to Bristol Old Vic – the home of one of his very first jobs as an actor – and to reunite with BOVTS following their successful production of *Let the Right One In* (2019). It's good to be back!



Yuxuan Liu
Assistant Director

Yuxuan is a Chinese director specialising in devised and physical theatre. He is passionate about creating visually, musically, and theatrically imaginative Re-tellings of classical plays, novels, and folklore.

From 2018 to 2021, he trained on the BA World Performance course at East 15 Acting School. Whilst at BOVTS, Yuxuan has worked as Assistant Director on *Sammy and the*

Sea Morgans directed by Liz Felton, and as Director of *Hamlet* at The Wardrobe Theatre.



Ben Nash
Assistant Director

Ben is a regular director for Cheltenham Youth Theatre – who often enter the National Youth Theatre Showcase. Ben has also been an Associate Artist at the Arnolfini, Traveling Light Theatre Company and Creative Youth Network. The work he has done within community and youth theatre has led him to stage shows at numerous venues across the region including Bristol Old Vic, Tobacco Factory, Glastonbury Festival and Bristol Beacon. His recent roles at BOVTS have included Director of *Bull* (Wardrobe Theatre), Movement Director on short film, *The Prang* and Movement AD for *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Station).



Olivia Jamieson
Set Designer

Olivia is a performance designer working interdisciplinary in both set and costume design. She has a particular interest in storytelling through the use of installation and sculpture within her practice. Prior to studying MA Performance Design at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Olivia graduated from the University of Sussex with a degree in English Literature and History of Art. She also attended Glasgow School of Art as a postgraduate student. Olivia's BOVTS credits include: *Pride and Prejudice* (The Mount Without), *How My Light is Spent* (The Wardrobe Theatre) and *Loam* (Bristol Old Vic).



Hazel McIntosh
Costume & Projection Designer

Hazel is a performance designer working within a multitude of disciplines such as set, costume, spatial and video design. Hazel has trained previously in Fine Art practices and holds a first-class BA (Hons) in Illustration from UWE Bristol 2019. Hazel has previously worked as a Design Assistant for Coventry Moves, the Coventry City of Culture 2021 opening show. BOVTS

credits include *Pride and Prejudice* (The Mount Without), *Bull* (Wardrobe Theatre) and *Loam* (Bristol Old Vic).



Hugo Dodsworth **Lighting & Projection Designer**

Hugo is a performance designer, working holistically across disciplines of set, lighting, and video design.

He received his BA (Hons) in Italian and History of Art from UCL in 2021. In 2019, Hugo spent a year working as an electrician and lighting design assistant at Teatro alla Scala in Milan. Hugo's specialist skills include digital modelling and drafting, lighting design, visualisation and programming. BOVTS credits include Production Designer on *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave Theatre) and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Station), Lighting Designer on *Catastrophe Bay* (Bristol Old Vic).



Rebecca Daltry **Vocal Coach**

Rebecca is currently undertaking an MFA in Voice Studies at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

After graduating from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2016 with a BA (Hons) in Acting she has loved working as an actor, deviser, and puppeteer, but is now excited to be taking a new direction as a voice practitioner. Rebecca hopes to work extensively with professional voice users to nurture and highlight their vocal and story-telling capabilities. She has gained experience as Assistant Accent and Dialect Support on the BOVTS third year production of *The Last Days of Judas of Iscariot*.



Joe Culpin **Assistant Production Manager**

Joe is specialising in production management in his final year at BOVTS. Growing up within the

performance industry triggered Joe's curiosity about how productions are created. He has a strong understanding and skill set of all disciplines which have helped him progress towards his goal of working in a production management team.

His BOVTS credits include the role of Assistant Production Manger on *Macbeth* (Bristol Old Vic), *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave Theatre), *Sammy and The Sea Morgans* (Theatre in Education Tour), *Pride and Prejudice* (The Mount Without), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Station) and *Follow the Star* (Theatre in Education Tour).

Bryony Rutter **Production Supervisor**

Bryony trained at Theatr Clwyd and has had a diverse career in stage management that has taken her to theatres and performance spaces around the UK and the world. She has toured with companies such as Propeller Theatre and Northern Broadsides, as well as working 'in house' for the RSC (*A Tender Thing*, *The Hypocrite*), the National Theatre (*Jane Eyre*) and extensively for Bristol Old Vic and Tobacco Factory Theatres. Bryony joined the staff of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in February as a Stage Management Tutor.



Frances Ashton **Stage Manager and AV Programmer**

Frances is specialising in stage management and audio visual. Having completed a placement as

part of the original stage management team for the new play *Electric Rosary* at the Royal Exchange Theatre, she has strong interest in new writing and would love to work on more in the future, either in a stage management or audio-visual role.

Her latest BOVTS credits include Stage Manager/AV Programmer on *Loam* (Bristol Old Vic), Deputy Stage Manager on *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Station), Stage Manager on *Macbeth* (Bristol Old Vic Weston Studio) and Deputy Stage Manager on *Troilus and Cressida* (The Redgrave Theatre).



Rosie Maynard **Deputy Stage Manager**

Rosie is specialising in stage management and camera operation. She has thoroughly enjoyed contemporary theatre when

working as the SM on *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and working on the two BOVTS short

films of *The Book Club* and *The Prang*. She would love to work on contemporary theatre and television in the future.

Her recent credits include Deputy Stage Manager on *Loam* (Bristol Old Vic), Stage Manager on *The Meaning of Zong* (Bristol Old Vic), Camera Operator for BOVTS short film *The Prang*, Stage Manager on *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (The Station), Deputy Stage Manager on *Romeo and Juliet* (Redgrave Theatre).



Chris Davies **Production LX**

Chris is a graduating student from the BA (Hons) Production Arts course at BOVTS. He has recently undertaken several work placements at The Blake Theatre in Monmouth, earning the title of Assistant/Chief Technician. Prior to training at BOVTS, Chris completed a foundation degree in Performing Arts at Hereford College of Arts. Credits whilst at BOVTS include Sound Designer on both *Macbeth* (Redgrave Theatre) and *Pride and Prejudice* (The Mount Without) and Assistant Stage Manager on *Absolute Scenes* (The Marble Factory).



Hannah Bracegirdle **Sound Designer & Composer**

Through her training and work outside the School, Hannah has gained experience in live mixing on set, post production mixing, sound design for live theatre and sound editing. Later in the year, she is joining the Production Team on the new series of *Waterloo Road* as a Sound Trainee.

Professional credits include Sound Recordist on *Billy 2* for the Manchester Film Festival, Sound Designer on *When Rachel Met Fiona* at The Space and Sound No.2 on *Wonderboy* at Bristol Old Vic. Her recent BOVTS credits include Location Sound on short films *Sidelined* and *Jumping Through Hoops* and Sound Designer and Operator on *I Hate Alone* at the Wardrobe Theatre.



Meriel Pym **Prop Supervisor**

Meriel joined BOVTS in August 2017 having spent twenty years working in the theatre industry as a scenic artist, prop maker and designer. She holds a Theatre Design BA from Nottingham Trent University and recently obtained a PGCE from Rose Bruford College.

Meriel served for fourteen years at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester, creating sets and props for over 140 productions. She has also worked at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh, Oldham Coliseum, Bolton Octagon and Manchester International Festival as well as on TV shows including *Life on Mars* (BBC) and *Rovers* (SKY TV).



Andy Scrivens **Construction Supervisor**

Andy has over 28 years of experience in the UK, Europe and North America working as an electrician, flyperson, carpenter and set builder in the theatre, film and television industries. He is very passionate about passing on the knowledge he has learned from his own experiences to the next generation of theatre technicians.



Saskia Bath **Costume Supervisor**

Saskia is focussing her final year on costume supervision. She thoroughly enjoys the organisational aspects of putting on a show, including using her hair and makeup skills. Professional costume supervision credits include *Value Engineering - Scenes from the Grenfell Inquiry* (Nick of Time Productions) and four years of pantomime at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury.

Her BOVTS credits include Costume Supervisor on *Loam* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Ugly Duckling*, *Red Shoes and Other Stories* (Theatre in Education Tour), *Toy Plastic Chicken* (Wardrobe Theatre).

BEHIND THE SCENES

Hazel McIntosh and Olivia Jamieson are graduating in 2022 from the Theatre School's MA in Performance Design. Here they provide an insight into the inspirations behind the design of Loam. You can catch more of their work at GENERATE, a free exhibition showcasing the work of BOVTS creatives at Bristol's Paintworks between 5 - 7 July.



Costume & Projection Designer Hazel McIntosh

What did you look to for inspiration for each individual costume?

We wanted to create a world of heightened contrast. The clinical world of testing and interrogating nature, much of which we've seen in the pandemic, is represented in a world of hazmat-suited performers. Characters' costumes are intense bright colours that stand out against the white sleek look of the set. The intensity of the costumes brings out the life and joy of this play; as well as reflecting a façade of materialism that our characters hide behind before embracing nature (quite literally at times).

Which costume has been the most fun to design?

The woodlouse has been an absolute joy to design and a wonderful project to work on with makers, Ruth and Izzy. It's not every day that you get to design an eccentric rockin' woodlouse.

How did your ideas develop in collaboration with other students?

Working closely with Olivia has been an amazing process. Together we find a great way to balance what we want to bring to the

show in response to the text as well as, making the process fun and joyous. I've also really appreciated the costume supervisor's extensive knowledge of the textile world and her dedication to the project.

What have you personally achieved from this production?

I've been able to blend the skill of designing a costume which is also part prop or part set. It's been educational to delve into the world of special effects and materials. It's impacted how I see the relationship between set as costume or costumes as set as an exciting avenue to explore further.



Set Designer Olivia Jamieson



What did you look to for inspiration?

Various aspects of the growing climate emergency provided inspiration when I first started working on this show, from society's complex and changing relationship to the environment, to the way we are losing touch with nature, and consequently, ourselves. I wanted to create a visual world which expressed this; the sleek corporate linear structure downstage - a metaphor for the out-of-touch world - ignoring the looming foreshadowing of the climate crisis, exemplified in the green drops.

How have your ideas developed in collaboration?

This creative process has been enormously collaborative, stretching across numerous departments. As the set designer, I've worked closely with Hazel to create a unified world where the colourful bright costumes sing, in juxtaposition to the sleekness of the set. A personal highlight for me was designing and creating plants that personified the play's soundscape. These were designed and created closely with prop maker Izzy Keating, whose beautiful creations you'll be able to see in the show!

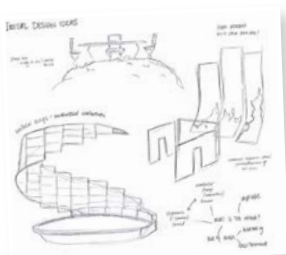
Is there anything you need to consider when designing the set for a show which is being played in rep?

Matthew Cassar (the designer of *Catastrophe Bay*) and I are neighbours in the design studio, where our desks sit side by side. We've both witnessed the birth and creative process of each other's designs coming to life - which has been a joy, particularly because of the contrasting nature of both plays. This mutual creativity has made practical decisions easier when considering shared floor, masking and balancing flying space.

What learning have you valued most at BOVTS?

Personally, the collaborative nature of being a visual storyteller in a supportive and generous environment. And ultimately, working with other likeminded young people to achieve the same shared vision and the lifelong friendships that have flourished in our time here.

Fresh from Directors' Festival, you can catch Olivia's design work in an upcoming production of *How My Light Is Spent* running at London's Riverside Studios from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 July. Tickets available at riversidestudios.co.uk.



**BRISTOL
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Theatre School

WRITERS' BLOC

SAT 2 JULY, 2:15

WESTON STUDIO, BRISTOL OLD VIC

Join the graduating students of the Drama Writing MA for a vibrant afternoon, showcasing exciting 20-minute extracts from seven full-length plays.

Tickets £5 | Book now at bristololdvic.org.uk

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GENERATE

TUE 5 JUL – THU 7 JUL

A free exhibition showcasing the work of graduating creatives from Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's design, costume and production departments.

Paintworks, Bristol, BS4 3EH | 10 am – 5.30 pm Tue & Wed, 10 am – 3 pm Thu