By Victoria Wood

TALENT

Wed 30 June - Sat 24 July

A Sheffield Theatres Production



SHEFF!ELD THEATRES

CRUCIBLE

WELCOME



I'm delighted to be able to welcome you to **Talent**, written by the legendary **Victoria Wood**.

Talent was first commissioned for the Crucible Studio in 1978, four years after Victoria auditioned for and won *New Faces*. It was her first play. Following critical acclaim, the show transferred to London in 1979 and was broadcast on television that same year. Over the course of her dazzling career at the top of British comedy – cut tragically short by her death in 2016 – she returned many times to writing for the stage.

We're proud that **Talent** serves as a reminder of Sheffield Theatres' long-term dedication to championing exciting artists at the start of their careers, and amplifying new and evolving voices. This feels more vital than ever, and this new production, 43 years later, comes after *The Together Season Festival* – a two-week celebration of local artists making new work on the Crucible stage.

For **Talent**, we're welcoming back some familiar friends alongside some new faces to Sheffield Theatres, all brilliantly led by director **Paul Foster**, last here with us for *Kiss Me*, *Kate* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

We're so happy to be back and welcoming you into the auditorium again. Thank you for your support, and enjoy the show!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



RICHARD CANT

Arthur

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Original Sin and The Country Wife.

Other theatre credits include:

Mr Gum And The Dancing Bear (National Theatre); Wife (Kiln Theatre); Edward The Second and After Edward (Shakespeare's Globe); Maydays, Hamlet, and Much Ado About Nothing (Royal Shakespeare Company); Stella (LIFT); Medea (Almeida); The Trial (Young Vic); Saint Joan and My Night With Reg (Donmar Warehouse); War Horse (National Theatre at New London Theatre); Salome (Hampstead Theatre); Troilus & Cressida, Cymbeline and As You Like It (Cheek by Jowl); Other People (Royal Court); Angels in America (Library Theatre, Manchester).

Television credits include:

It's A Sin, Shackleton, and Gunpowder, Treason & Plot (Channel 4); The Crown (Netflix); Great Expectations, Silent Witness, Taboo, Mapp & Lucia, Vexed, Bleak House, The Way We Live Now, Gimme Gimme Gimme, Doctor Who, and This Life (BBC); Outlander (Starz); Above Suspicion and Midsomer Murders (ITV).

Film credits include:

Stan & Ollie; Mary Queen Of Scots; Sparkle; Lawless Heart.



DANIEL CROSSLEY

Compere

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Me and My Girl and A Chorus Line.

Other theatre credits include:

The Twilight Zone (Almeida / West End); Reared (Theatre503); Sweet Charity (Royal Exchange); As You Like It (Shakespeare's Globe); Singin' In The Rain (Theatre du Chatelet, Grand Palais); Accolade and Putting it Together (St James Theatre); Tonight at 8.30 (English Touring Theatre); Lizzie Siddal (Arcola Theatre); Singin' In The Rain (Chichester Festival Theatre / Palace Theatre); Kiss of the Spider Woman (Hull Truck); Mary Poppins (national tour); Hello Dolly!, As You Like It, Romeo and Juliet, Desires of Frankenstein, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Love's Labour's Lost, Oh What a Lovely War, and Where's Charlie (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); Anything Goes and Love's Labour's Lost (National Theatre); Twelfth Night (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Abigail's Party (Exeter Northcott Theatre); The Snow Queen (Derby Theatre); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Ripley Castle, Open Air); I Really Must Be Getting Off (The White Bear); Roast Chicken (The Hen and Chickens Theatre); Modern Dance for Beginners (Etcetera Theatre); Dorothy Fields Forever (Jermyn Street Theatre); Boyband (Derby Playhouse / Gielgud Theatre); Fosse (Prince of Wales Theatre); Chicago (Adelphi Theatre); Song & Dance (European Tour); Fame (Cambridge Theatre); Cats (New London Theatre).

Television credits include:

Doctors, The Last Enemy, Time, and The Salisbury Poisonings (BBC); Coronation Street and Heartbeat (ITV); The Royals (E!); Chernobyl (HBO); Washington (History Channel).

Film credits include:

How to Succeed in Biscuits Without Really Trying; The Borghilde Project; Working Lunge; The Reunion.

Radio credits include:

Sorry Boys You Failed The Audition (BBC).



JAMIE-ROSE MONK

Maureen

Jamie-Rose Monk trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Theatre credits include:

Dick Whittington (National Theatre); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Bridge Theatre); The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice (Park Theatre); Yap Yap Yap (Royal Festival Hall / Soho Theatre); Fat – A One Woman Show (Hackney Show Rooms); The Poisoners' Pact (UK tour); Monologue Slam Winner's Edition (Theatre Royal Stratford East).

Television credits include:

Doctors and Holby City (BBC); Class Dismissed (CBBC); GameFace (Channel 4).

Film credits include:

Holmes & Watson.

Comedy credits include:

Buttery Brown Monk (Leicester Square Theatre) and The Gag Show (Etcetera Theatre).

Radio credits include:

Sketchtopia and Athena's Cancel Culture (BBC Radio 4).



JONATHON OJINNAKA

Mel

Theatre credits include:

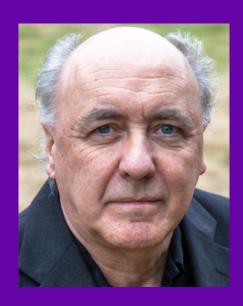
All The Bens (UK tour); Thinking Out Loud – Staying Alive (The Lass O'Gowrie); Behind Closed Doors (The Lowry Theatre); A View From The Bridge (Xaverian).

Television credits include:

Coronation Street, Emmerdale, Paranoid, and Scott and Bailey (ITV); Pitching In, Warren, and Doctor Who (BBC); The Worst Witch (CBBC); Mount Pleasant (Sky); Shameless (Channel 4).

Film credits include:

21 Million – The Discovery and The Caravan.



JAMES QUINN

George

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Democracy (also The Old Vic).

Other theatre credits include:

That Day We Sang and Zack and Pub (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester); The Choir (Citizens Theatre, Glasgow); Spring and Port Wine, The Pitman Painters, and Pygmalion (Oldham Coliseum Theatre); Glengarry Glen Ross, The Recruiting Officer, Man of the Moment, and Fashion and East (Library Theatre, Manchester); Plough and The Stars and East (Leicester Haymarket); To Kill A Mockingbird (Greenwich Theatre); Hindle Wakes, Noises Off, and The Fastest Clock in The Universe (Octagon Theatre, Bolton); Macbeth (African tour – London Bubble).

Television credits include:

Early Doors, Red Cap, World on Fire, Doctor Who, Gentleman Jack, Age Before Beauty, Holby City, Dalziel & Pascoe, Clocking Off, The New Statesman, and Casualty (BBC); Bancroft, Coronation Street, Home Fires, Fat Friends, The Bay, Scott and Bailey, See No Evil, and Heartbeat (ITV); Hollyoaks, Shameless, and Buried (Channel 4); Pennyworth (Epix); Safe (Netflix).

Film credits include:

Apostasy.

Radio credits include:

Sir Ralph Stanza's Letter From Salford (BBC Radio 4).

As writer, credits include:

At The End Of The Day (BBC Radio 5 Live); Twenty-20 (The Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough); Unsung (Liverpool Everyman).

James is a co-founder of JB Shorts, Manchester's twice-yearly festival of brand new short plays by established writers. He was also Writer-in-Residence for Strangeways at HMP Manchester and is a match day commentator on FCUM TV and Radio.



LUCIE SHORTHOUSE

Julie

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Everybody's Talking About Jamie (also West End) – Best Supporting Actress in a Musical WhatsOnStage Award and the Rising Star H100 Hospital Club Award.

Other theatre credits include:

Roller Diner (Soho Theatre); The House Of In Between (Theatre Royal, Stratford East).

Television credits include:

We Are Lady Parts (Channel 4); Bulletproof (Sky One); Line Of Duty (BBC); Cleaning Up (ITV); The Sound Of Music Live! (NBC).

CREATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

VICTORIA WOOD (1953 - 2016)

Writer

Victoria Wood won more television BAFTAs than anyone in BAFTA history: for her stand-up, her drama and her light entertainment programmes. As a stand-up she toured for more than twenty years, and held the record at the Royal Albert Hall for fifteen consecutive sold out shows. Victoria was awarded a CBE in 2008.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Talent (commissioned for the Studio in 1978) and Good Fun.

Other theatre credits include:

Acorn Antiques the Musical! starring Julie Walters and Celia Imrie (Theatre Royal Haymarket / UK Tour); That Day We Sang, based on the famous 1929 recording of 'Nymphs and Shepherds' by the Manchester Children's Choir (Manchester International Festival).

Television credits include:

Housewife 49 (winner of two BAFTAs and an International Emmy nomination for Wood as Best Actress); Victoria's Empire (three-part documentary); Eric and Ernie (BBC2 Film), The Giddy Kipper (for Sky One's 'Little Crackers'); The Borrowers (BBC Film); dinnerladies, Case Histories, Loving Miss Hatto, Victoria Wood's Nice Cup of Tea, As Seen on TV, and That Day We Sang — adaptation for television, starring Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton (BBC).

Other awards include:

Women in Film and Television Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to the industry; Outstanding Contribution to Comedy (Chortle Awards); Best Female Television Comic Award for her performance in *The Angina Monologues* (Comedy Awards). She was the first woman to receive the top prize from the Writers' Guild Awards when she was honoured for her outstanding contribution to writing.

PAUL FOSTER

Director

Paul Foster trained at the University of Leeds and LAMDA.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Kiss Me, Kate and Annie Get Your Gun.

Other directing credits include:

Fascinating Aïda (Queen Elizabeth Hall / Tour); Curtains (Wyndhams Theatre / Tour); The Deep Blue Sea (Minerva Theatre, Chichester); A Little Night Music, Tell Me on a Sunday (also UK Tour), and Laurel and Hardy (Watermill Theatre, Newbury); The Light Princess and Sweet Charity (Cadogan Hall); L'Amante Anglaise (National Theatre Studio); Bette Midler and Me (Edinburgh Festival / St James Theatre); Crazy For You (Mountview); A State Affair (Musical Theatre Academy); Catch Me if You Can, The Music Man, Singin' in the Rain, and Grand Hotel (ArtsEd); Cowardy Custard (Yvonne Arnaud Theatre / UK Tour); Bells are Ringing (three WhatsonStage Awards nominations, including Best Musical Revival), Darling of the Day, and Crimes of the Heart (Union Theatre); The Vagina Monologues (National Tour); Flora the Red Menace (Edinburgh Festival); Love in a Wood, Funeral Games, and Landscape (LAMDA); Lorca: Playwright and Poet (National Theatre Platforms); Little One (Royal Court Young Writers Festival); Raw Bacon and Fists of Righteous Happiness (RADA).

Radio credits include:

Britannicus and Little Lives.

JANET BIRD

Designer

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Guys And Dolls, Kiss Me Kate, The Wizard Of Oz, and Hobson's Choice.

Other theatre credits include:

Our Lady of Blundellsands (Liverpool Everyman); Milky Peaks, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, and Much Ado About Nothing (Theatr Clwyd); Abigail's Party (UK Tour); Enjoy (Bath / UK Tour / Geilgud Theatre); The Madness of George III (UK Tour / Apollo Theatre, London); The Merry Wives of Windsor (also US Tour), A Comedy of Errors, and Holding Fire (Shakespeare's Globe); Adult Supervision (Park Theatre); Ken, Four Minutes Twelve Seconds (also Trafalgar Studios), Alphabetical Order (also UK Tour), and The Argument (Hampstead Theatre); Uncle Vanya (St. James Theatre); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park); Mad Man (Plymouth Drum); A Taste of Honey, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, The Age of Arousal, and Long Day's Journey into Night (Edinburgh Lyceum); The BFG and Lighthearted Intercourse (Octagon Theatre, Bolton); The Rise and Fall of Little Voice (Dundee Rep); The History Boys (West Yorkshire / UK Tour); Way Upstream (Salisbury Playhouse); A Doll's House (Exeter Northcott); Hay Fever (Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis); Single Spies (Bath / UK Tour); Tell Me on a Sunday (UK Tour); Longwave (Lyric Studio Hammersmith / UK Tour); The Adventures of Woundman and Shirley (UK Tour); The Rocky Horror Show (UK Tour / Comedy Theatre).

AIDEEN MALONE

Lighting Designer

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

A Raisin in The Sun.

Other theatre credits include:

A Kind Of People (Royal Court); Death of a Salesman (Young Vic / Piccadilly Theatre); Worst Witch (Vaudeville Theatre); A Monster Calls (Bristol Old Vic / Old Vic, London); Brighton Rock and A View From A Bridge (York Theatre Royal); La Strada (The Other Palace); Jane Eyre and Peter Pan (National Theatre / Bristol Old Vic); Fiddler On The Roof and Conquest of the South Pole (Liverpool Everyman); Hetty Feather (Duke of York Theatre); Frankenstein: The Musical (UK Tour); Napoleon Disrobed (Arcola Theatre / UK Tour); The Strange Tale of Stan Laurel and Charlie Chaplin (Theatre Royal Plymouth / Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg / UK Tour).

Dance credits include:

Outwitting The Devil and Kaash (Akram Kahn); Darbar Festival (Sadlers Wells); Raft (Gwyn Emberton Dance); Unkindest Cut (Sadhana); Time Over Distance Over Time (Liz Roche); La Tete (Jasmin Vardimon).

Opera credits include:

Ariodante, Turn of the Screw, The Marriage of Figaro, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Mary Queen of Scots, Cosi Fan Tutte, and Tosca/Jenufa (English Touring Opera).

SARAH TRAVIS

Musical Supervisor

Sarah is an Associate Artist of Curve Theatre Leicester and trained at the City University and The Guildhall School of Music. In 2006 she won a Tony and Drama Desk Award for her Orchestrations on The Watermill Theatre's production of *Sweeney Todd*.

As Orchestrator and Musical Supervisor, credits include:

Daisy (workshop) and Tony! A Tony Blair Rock Opera (workshop) (MTFest - Turbine Theatre); West Side Story (Supervisor), An Officer and a Gentleman (Supervisor), Scrooge, Grease (also UK Tour) and Legally Blonde (Curve Theatre, Leicester); Curtains (UK Tour); Miss Littlewood (Royal Shakespeare Company); Sister Act (UK tour); Fiddler on The Roof (UK tour); Chess (UK tour / Toronto); Sweet Charity, A Little Night Music, Sweeney Todd (also Trafalgar Studios / Eugene O'Neill Theatre), Copacabana, Spend Spend Spend, Sunset Boulevard (also The Comedy Theatre, West End), Martin Guerre, and Hot Mikado, Honk!, Mack and Mabel (also West End), Fiddler on the Roof, Gondoliers, Ten Cents a Dance, Piaf, and Carmen (The Watermill Theatre, Newbury); The A to Z of Mrs P (Southwark Playhouse); The Jungle Book (The Citizens Theatre, Glasgow); Dear World (Charing Cross Theatre); Sunnyside Of the Street and Dottie Lottie (Jermyn Street Theatre); A Song Cycle For Soho (Soho Theatre); Greeks at the Gate (Gate Theatre).

As Composer, credits include:

Extraordinary Women (currently in development); The Lost Toys Big Christmas Adventure (White Rock Theatre Hastings); The Secret Garden (Chester Performs); The Marriage Of Figaro and A Star Danced (The Watermill Theatre, Newbury); Peter Pan (Oxford Playhouse); The Last Fattybottypuss In The World (Regents Park Open Air Theatre); Tales My Lover Told Me (Kings Head Theatre); A Womb With A View (BBC Radio 4); The Challenge (The Shaw Theatre); Late And Lyrical (Jermyn Street Theatre); Best Of British (Bridewell Theatre); plus many pantomimes for Chipping Norton.

As pianist, credits include:

Bette Midler And Me (Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh Fringe); Julian Clary: Canned Clary (St James Theatre); Natural Born Mincer (UK Tour); Fascinating Aïda in Barefaced Chic; Lily Savage (The Bloomsbury); Dillie Keane in Citizen Keane and Single Again; Alvin Stardust; Barb Jungr; The Drop Dead Divas; Two Birds And A Bloke.

ELLEN CAMPBELL

Musical Director

Ellen is a Musical Director, pianist, trombonist, arranger and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Musical Direction from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

As Musical Director, credits include:

Waitress (UK Tour 2021/22); Sleeping Beauty and Aladdin (Jordan Productions); Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber of Fleet Street (88 London Road, Brighton).

As Assistant Musical Director, credits include:

The Stunners Opera (Mountview Backstage Theatre); all female workshop (Central School of Speech and Drama).

As trombonist, credits include:

Albums for Izo Fitzroy; albums for The Grand Majestic; supporting act for the Brand New Heavies at Komedia; Lovebox Festival; Playgroup Festival; Proud Camden; The Underbelly, Hoxton.

Other credits include:

Arrangement of Pirates of Penzance: Rebooted (Brighton Fringe Festival); a reduced arrangement for two pianos and cello for *Sweeney Todd* and several charity events in Brighton; creation of the part of "Ellen, who only communicates through her trombone" in the original opera *She Said The F Word* (Tête à Tête Opera Festival, 2018). She has worked as a Musical Director and pianist at Brighton Fringe Festival, Parabola Arts Centre, Streatham Festival and The Cockpit Theatre.

GEORGE DENNIS

Sound Designer

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Frost/Nixon and Tribes.

Other theatre credits include:

The Homecoming (Trafalgar Studios – Olivier Award nomination for Best Sound Design); The Duchess of Malfi and Three Sisters (Almeida Theatre); Venice Preserved (Royal Shakespeare Company); A Slight Ache / The Dumb Waiter, The Lover / The Collection, and One for the Road / A New World Order / Mountain Language / Ashes to Ashes (Harold Pinter Theatre); Nine Night (National Theatre / Trafalgar Studios); Sweat (Donmar Warehouse / Gielgud Theatre); The Importance of Being Earnest (Vaudeville Theatre); The Mountaintop (also UK Tour) and The Island (Young Vic); Sing Yer Heart Out For The Lads, The Deep Blue Sea, Hedda Tesman, and The Norman Conquests (Chichester Festival Theatre); Two Ladies and A Very Very Very Dark Matter (Bridge Theatre); An Octoroon (Orange Tree Theatre / National Theatre); Richard III (Bristol Old Vic); Spring Awakening (Leeds Playhouse); Much Ado About Nothing, Imogen, and The Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare's Globe); Harrogate, Fireworks, and Liberian Girl (Royal Court); Guards at the Taj and Visitors (Bush Theatre); Killer (Off-West End Award for Best Sound Design) and The Pitchfork Disney (codesigned with Ben and Max Ringham) (Shoreditch Town Hall); Faces in the Crowd, The Convert, In the Night Time, and Eclipsed (Gate Theatre); The Beacon (Staatstheater Stuttgart).

EMILY-JANE BOYLE

Movement Director

Theatre credits include:

Nora: A Doll's House (Young Vic); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); Leopoldstadt (Wyndham's Theatre); Exit the King (National Theatre); Oresteia: This Restless House (also Edinburgh International Festival), Lanark: A Life in Three Acts (also Edinburgh International Festival), Trainspotting, and Cuttin' A Rug (Citizens Theatre); The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover (Faena Theatre); How To Act (National Theatre of Scotland); Forest Boy (New York Musical Festival); The Red Balloon (National Youth Ballet); Hi, My Name is Ben (Goodspeed Musicals, USA); Richard III and Sunshine on Leith (Leeds Playhouse); Tay Bridge, Great Expectations, Victoria, and The Cheviot, The Stag and The Black Black Oil (Dundee Rep); Jumpy, Hedda Gabler, and Wendy and Peter Pan (Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh); Pride and Prejudice* *(Sort Of) (Tron / Bristol Old Vic).

Television includes:

The Crown (Netflix); Two Doors Down (BBC); In Plain Sight (ITV).

Film includes:

God Help the Girl; Our Ladies.

Events and ceremonies include:

Baku 2016 European Games; The Queen's 90th Patrons Lunch Parade; Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

WILL BURTON CDG

Casting Director

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Everybody's Talking About Jamie (also UK Tour and Apollo Theatre, London), Kiss Me, Kate, and The Wizard of Oz.

Other theatre credits include:

Be More Chill (also Shaftesbury Theatre), Heathers (also Theatre Royal Haymarket), and The Wild Party (The Other Palace); Matilda The Musical (Cambridge Theatre / UK Tour); Ghost The Musical (Piccadilly Theatre / International Tour); Evita and Jesus Christ Superstar (Barbican & Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); Local Hero, Jekyll & Hyde, and High Society (Old Vic); I Think We Are Alone (UK tour) and Fatherland (Royal Exchange Manchester / Lyric Hammersmith) (Frantic Assembly); Leave To Remain and Bugsy Malone (Lyric Hammersmith); Ghost Quartet (Boulevard Theatre), The View UpStairs (Soho Theatre); My Night With Reg, High Fidelity, and Torch Song (The Turbine Theatre); In the Heights (King's Cross Theatre); Five Guys Named Moe (Marble Arch Theatre); Working, Xanadu, Carrie, Casa Valentina, and Side Show (Southwark Playhouse); The Etienne Sisters (Theatre Royal Stratford East); Paper Dolls (Tricycle Theatre); bare: the rock musical (Union Theatre); Piaf and Sweet Charity (Nottingham Playhouse); Insane Animals (HOME); The Assassination of Katie Hopkins (Theatr Clwyd); The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe (UK Tour); Priscilla Queen of the Desert (UK Tour); RENT 20th Anniversary (UK Tour).

TV & Film includes:

Matilda (Netflix); Mary Poppins Returns and Beauty & the Beast (Disney); The Voice, So You Think You Can Dance, and Over The Rainbow (BBC); Superstar (ITV).

ELIN SCHOFIELD

Assistant Director

Elin is a director, writer and movement director working primarily in new writing and artist development. She has received training from the National Theatre Studio and is currently a supported artist at Sheffield Theatres, a National Student Drama Festival Associate and a National Theatre Connections mentor director. Previously, she has been part of writers' groups at the Royal Court and Sheffield Theatres.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:

Screwdriver (as part of The Together Season Festival, also Lyric Hammersmith), *Party Empire, This is Not a Demo,* and *hang* (Assistant Director).

Other theatre credits include:

LOVE (Associate Director, European Tour); Pop Music (UK Tour); Signals (National Tour); You and I (Hope Mill Theatre / Edinburgh Fringe Festival / York Theatre Royal); Shoes in Twos (Theatre503); Daniel (National Tour); The Stick Man (Associate Director, UK Tour).

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Manager Stephanie Balmforth
Company Manager Andrew Wilcox
Stage Manager Sarah Gentle
Deputy Stage Manager Sarah Greenwood
Assistant Stage Manager Rosalind Chappelle
LX Programmer Kati Hind
Production LX Nick Johnson and Chris Brown
Sound Operators Nick Greenhill, Chris Ellis
Stage Crew Chris Platts, Dan Stephens, Liam Roughley, Dave Pumford
Wardrobe Supervisor Debbie Gamble
Wig Supervisor Val Atkinson

THANKS

Sheffield Theatres would like to thank the following people:

Angels, Maria Barnes, Mark Goldthorp as Magical Consultant, JM Scaffolding, Sarah Lewis at Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, Limelight Presentation Systems, Griz Pedley, Joe Philpott, Sheffield Theatres Workshop, Imogen Singer, Stage Sound Services, Ian Whitehead, Andy Wood at Leeds Playhouse.

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