

# MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD

By Charlotte  
Keatley

Fri 8 – Sat 23  
November

A Sheffield Theatres and  
fingersmiths Production

fingersmiths



# SHEFF!ELD THEATRES

Box Office 0114 249 6000  
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# STUDIO

# WELCOME



Welcome to this digital programme for **My Mother Said I Never Should**. We're proud to be presenting this production in association with **fingersmiths**.

We often talk of refreshing the classics, and taking bold new approaches to familiar texts. Modern drama doesn't come any more classic than this; **Charlotte Keatley's** beautiful play has been delighting and moving audiences the world over since its award-winning debut in 1987. And this production exemplifies exactly what we mean by bold and refreshing. Charlotte, director **Jeni Draper** and her team have taken this story of four generations of the same family and given it new life and new meaning, focusing the story on the lives of D/deaf women, and in the process telling a history of D/deaf experience in the 20th century.

There's more groundbreaking contemporary playwriting in our forthcoming season. Coming to the Studio in the new year is the world premiere of **Run Sister Run** by **Chloë Moss**, created with **Paines Plough** and **Soho Theatre**, followed by our resident company **Utopia Theatre's** new production **Here's What She Said to Me**. I hope you'll join us.

## Robert Hastie

Artistic Director, Sheffield Theatres

First performed at the Studio Theatre Sheffield on Friday 8 November 2019.

Sheffield Theatres Crucible Trust is a registered Charity No. 1120640 and is a company limited by guarantee No. 6035820



Supported using public funding by  
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# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**ALI BRIGGS**  
**DORIS**

**For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:**  
*Song From The Sea.*

**Theatre credits include:**  
*Forest of Forgotten Discos* (Contact Theatre); *Radical Acts* (CommonWealth Theatre); *The Knitting Circle* (Vital Xposure); *Peeling* (Forest Forge/Graeae); *A Lovely Sunday For A Creve Coeur* (Graeae); *Sssh* (Roundabout T.I.E.) and *Breaking The Silence* (Red Ladder).

**Television and Film credits include:**  
*Coronation Street*; *Fat Friends*; *Alphabet Soup*; *Whose Diary Is It Anyway?*; *Over The Edge - Daphne's Laughter Show*; *Four Deaf Yorkshire Men Go To Blackpool* and *Who Do You Think You Are?*



**LISA KELLY**  
**ROSIE**

Lisa graduated from the University of East London with a degree in Counselling, being able to provide counselling services to Deaf BSL users.

Her acting career started in 2018, in Samuel Dore's 2018 Film, *Reverberations*.

We are now pleased to be welcoming her to Sheffield Theatres in her debut role with *My Mother Said I Never Should*.



**JUDE MAHON**  
**MARGARET**

**Theatre credits include:**  
*Reasons To Be Cheerful* (Graeae Theatre/Theatre Royal Stratford/New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich); *The Threepenny Opera* (Graeae Theatre/Nottingham Playhouse); *Funny Women* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival); *IT* (Birds of Paradise Theatre Company); *The Iron Man* (Graeae Theatre/Greenwich and Docklands International Festival); *Whiter Than Snow* (Graeae Theatre Company/Birmingham Rep); *I Ought to Be in Pictures* (Eye Theatre); *Dancing At Lughnasa* and *Top Girls* (Mountview).

**Film credits include:**  
*Cake!*; *Retreat*; *Fool Britannia*; *Silent Witness*.



## EJ RAYMOND JACKIE

### **Theatre credits include:**

*Finding Nina!* (Deaf Connection); *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Graeae Theatre Company/Royal Exchange Theatre); *Scavengers*, *Beautiful Thing*, *Last Woman Left* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); *Dream On!* (BBC Arts Live); *Blood Wedding* (Graeae Theatre Company/Dundee Rep); *A Woman Alone* (Remesh Meyyappan/Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); *Rescuers' Speaking*, *The Irish Giant*, *Mouth of Silence* (Birds of Paradise Theatre Company); *Love & Information* (Solar Bear Ltd & Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), *I Confess* (The Arches Theatre Company).

### **Television and Film**

**credits include:** *Chase Identities*; *Perfumer*; *The Studio* and *A Love Divided*.



## GENEVIEVE BARR VOICE OF JACKIE

Genevieve was born deaf and was fitted with hearing aids aged four. She can be seen in the *Maltesers* advert, the first advert to ever be aired solely in British Sign Language with captions.

### **Television and film**

**credits include:** *The Silence*; *The Accident*; *Shameless*; *The Fades*; *True Love*; *Call the Midwife*; *Liar* and *Press*.



# PRODUCTION GALLERY



Click [here](#) to view the full production gallery

Photos by Mark Douet

# MEET THE WRITER: CHARLOTTE KEATLEY

Writer Charlotte Keatley talks about **My Mother Said I Never Should** and the experience of being involved in this new version.

**Click on the image below to see the interview.**



Charlotte Keatley in rehearsals for *My Mother Said I Never Should*. Photo by Mark Douet.

# CREATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

## CHARLOTTE KEATLEY WRITER

Charlotte is best known for *My Mother Said I Never Should*, now the most widely produced play ever written by a woman, produced in 31 countries.

It has been a huge influence on British Theatre and won many awards, including being named in the National Theatre's list of the 100 Most Significant Plays of the 20th Century. It is a GCSE text and studied at universities. She has also written for film, television, radio, and has won the George Devine Award, an Edinburgh Fringe First and an EMMY for filming in childrens' prisons for a C4 documentary. She is writing *Emilie's Fire*, a new play about an extraordinary 18th century French mathematician, mother, philosopher and gambler.

She teaches creative writing around the world on request [charlottekeatley.co.uk](http://charlottekeatley.co.uk)

**Other theatre credits include:** *The Ringing Singing Tree* (Contact Theatre); *Fears And Miseries In The Third Term* (Young Vic); *An Armenian Childhood* (Impact Theatre) and *Waiting For Martin* (English Shakespeare Co.); *Our Father* (Watford Palace Theatre); *All the Daughters of War* (National Theatre Studio) and *The Inconvenience Store* (Paines Plough, touring 2020).

## JENI DRAPER DIRECTOR

Jeni is the Artistic Director of fingersmiths, a visual physical theatre company working with Deaf and hearing actors in BSL and spoken English. She is also a qualified sign language interpreter specialising in theatre.

**As director, theatre credits include:** *Up 'n' Under* (fingersmiths/New Wolsey Theatre & tour); *Frozen* (fingersmiths/Birmingham Rep co-production and tour); *War Crimes for the Home* (tour); *Counting the Ways* (Face Front Inclusive Theatre tour) and *The Merry Wives of Waltham* (Rose & Crown, Walthamstow).

**Consultancy for Sheffield Theatres credits include:** *Tribes*.

**Consultancy theatre credits include:** *Upon the Stair* (The Book of Darkness & Light); *Tommy* (Ramps on the Moon); *Punk Rock*; *Our Town* (Prime Theatre) and *Masked* (in development).

## SOPHIA LOVELL SMITH

### DESIGNER

Sophia studied Theatre Arts at Bretton Hall and designs for theatre, opera, dance and interactive performance for children.

**Theatre credits include:** *The Paper Aeroplane* (Lots of Odds/Half Moon Theatre); *The Bed* (Little Angel Theatre); *Peace At Last!* (Opera Up Close); *Lost Property* (Full House Theatre); *Hatch, Operation Magic Carpet, Property of Polka* (Polka Theatre); *Catch A Sea Star, Run Rindle Rill, The Fairy Queen* (Spitalfields Music); *A Child's Guide To Brutalism* (Southbank Centre); *Sponge* (Barbican/ZArts); *Rachel, Tonight We Fly* (Trestle Theatre), *Flathampton, Waves* (Royal & Derngate Theatre); *The Caretaker, Hello & Goodbye, Flame, The Bogus Woman* (Theatre By The Lake), *The Snow Queen* (Unicorn); *Pinocchio* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *Kabaddi Kabaddi Kabaddi* (Kali Theatre); *Millworks* (Theatre Rites); *This Is My Bed!* (English Touring Opera) and *Common Heaven* (Theatre Centre).

## GARY LONGFIELD

### LIGHTING DESIGNER

Gary trained in Theatre Design at Bretton Hall College and is currently Sheffield Theatres' Head of Lighting.

**For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:** *Songs From The Seven Hill, What We Wished For, A Dream, Camelot, The Sheffield Mysteries, 20 Tiny Plays about Sheffield, Leaner Faster Stronger, Mother Goose, Aladdin, Dick Whittington, Jack and The Beanstalk, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Lives in Art, Peter Pan, Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs, Leopard, The Beauty Inspector, There's Only One Wayne Mathews, Confessions of a City, The Ugly Duckling, Topdog/Underdog, Handful of Henna, Warrior Square, Eyecatcher, The Jazz Conductor, Energise! and Falling, Paradise, The Good Person of Szechwan, The Pilgrimage, Not Exactly An Angel, The Sound Collector and The Minataur.*

**Re-lights for Sheffield Theatres, credits include:** *This Is My Family* (Tour); *One Monkey Don't Stop No Show* (Bristol); *The Caretaker* (Tour); *Elephant Man* (Tour); *A Number* (Chichester) and *As You Like It* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

## NICK GREENHILL

### SOUND DESIGNER

**For Sheffield Theatres credits include:** *Reasons to Stay Alive, Rutherford and Son, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Desire Under the Elms, Songs From The Seven Hills, The Nap, Blasted, This Is My Family, The Sheffield Mysteries, Wonderful Tennessee, This Is My Family* (UK Tour), *World Music, The Modernists, Bird Calls, A Chorus Line, Piaf, Fen, Far Away, Cloud Nine, Ain't Misbehavin', Blue/Orange* (also National Tour), *A Number* (also Minerva Theatre, Chichester), *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl, The Comedy of Errors, Gladiator Games, Promises Promises, Assassins, Fiddler on the Roof* and ten pantomimes at the Lyceum Theatre.

**Other credits include:** *Bouncers, Perfect Pitch* (Derby Theatre); *Speaking in Tongues* (Derby Theatre/Hampstead Theatre); *God and Stephen Hawking* (National Tour); *Passing Places* (Greenwich Theatre); *Lady Day at Emmerson's Bar and Grill* (National Tour); *The Blue Room, Ain't Misbehavin', The School for Scandal* (Northampton Theatre Royal); *Great Expectations* (also Walnut St Theatre); *Philadelphia, Misconceptions* (Salisbury Playhouse); *The Browning Version, Way Upstream, Catwalk* (Nitro Theatre Company); *Goblins Don't Scare Us, The House That Nat Built* (The New End Theatre, Hampstead) and *When Five Years Pass* (Arcola Theatre).



## LUANNA PRIESTMAN

### MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

Luanna trained at Arts Ed.

**Theatre credits include:** As Movement Director/Choreographer: *Up 'n' Under* (fingersmiths), *Emily Brown and the Thing* and *My Brother the Robot* (Tall Stories). As Associate Director: *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child* (Tall Stories). As Deviser: *The Latke Who Couldn't stop Screaming* and *How The Giraffe Got it's Neck* (Tall Stories).

**As an Actor, theatre credits include:** *Cupboard* (National Theatre); *The Dream Space* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The Queen's Knickers* (Theatre Royal Bath); *Wish Wash* (Polka Theatre), *Bad Girls* (No1 Tour) and *Mother Goose* (Chipping Norton Theatre).

## CAROLINE PARKER

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Caroline signed the finale song of the Paralympic 2012 Opening Ceremony.

**As an actor, theatre credits include:** *The Jungle Book* (Derby Theatre); *Twelfth Night* (Southwark Theatre) and *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* (National Theatre/Frantic Assembly).

**Film credits include:** *If I Don't Lose, I'll Lose*.

## ELSPETH MORRISON

### ACCENT COACH

**Theatre credits include:** *Amelie* (Watermill and tour); *Roundabout Plays* (Paines Plough); *Little Voice* (Theatre by the Lake); *Ink* (Almeida); *Baskerville* (tour); *Strangers on a Train* (tour); *Crazy for You* (tour); *Skellig* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Napoli Brooklyn* (Park Theatre); *Hogarth's Success* (Rose Theatre); *Sketching* (Wilton's Music Hall); *My Cousin Rachel* (Theatre Royal Bath); *Contractions* (Deafinitely Theatre); *Trouble in Mind* (Print Room); *Up and Under* (fingersmiths) and *Intemperance* (New Vic Theatre).

**Television, radio and film credits include:** *Melvyn Bragg's Matter of the North*; *An Immigrant's Guide to Britain*; *The Royals*; *Horrible Histories*; *Prime Suspect 1973*; *Clique*; *Coronation Street*; *EastEnders*; *Eric, Ernie and Me*; *The Loudest Voice*; *Das Boot*; *Flatmates*; *Picnic at Hanging Rock*; *X Files: Cold Cases*; *My Name is Why*; *The Testaments*; *The Mad Axeman*; *Watcher in the Woods*; *The Professor and the Madman* and *The More you Ignore Me*.

## JEAN ST CLAIR

### BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE CONSULTANT

Jean's extensive theatre career as an actress has involved working in USA, Europe, Australia, South Africa, the West End and most recently in Denmark.

**As BSL Consultant, theatre credits include:** *Up 'n' Under* (fingersmiths); *Peeling, The Flower Girls, Into the Mystic, The Changeling* (Graeae Theatre); *The Baddies, The Velveteen Rabbit, The Snow Queen, Cinderella, Beauty & the Beast* (Unicorn Theatre); *Peeling* (Taking Flight); *Woman of Flowers* (Forest Forge) and *In Water, I'm Weightless* (National Theatre of Wales).

**As BSL Consultant, television and film credits include:** *Summer of Rockets; Dr Who; SoundProof; Magic Hands; Reverberation* and *Deaf Funny*.

**As actor, theatre credits include:** *Richard III* (HamletScenen, Denmark); *The Meeting* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *The Government Inspector* (Birmingham REP) and *Frozen, In Praise of Fallen Women* (fingersmiths).

**As screenwriter, film credits include:** *Signs of an Affair* and *If I don't Lose, I'll Lose*.

## CHRISTOPHER HOLT

### VOICE COACH

Christopher is a Senior Lecturer at London Metropolitan University and the Associate Theatre Facilitator for The Outside Edge Theatre Company. He was an actor and singer for 26 years.

**For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:** *Tribes*.

**Theatre credits include:** *Bent, Whiter than Snow, Reasons To Be Cheerful, The Solid Life of Still Water* (Graeae Theatre Company – National tours/National Theatre) and *Dishoom* (Watford Palace Theatre/ National tour).

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

BSL Lead Interpreter **Emma Lipton**

BSL Interpreters **Tebbs Bowden, Sarah Cox, Sarah Sheen, Lucy Smart, Julie Thompson**

Audio Describer **Vicci Ackroyd**

Production Manager **Stephanie Balmforth**

Stage Manager **Kate Bosomworth**

Deputy Stage Manager **Patricia Davenport**

Rehearsal Deputy Stage Manager **Olivia Dudley**

Assistant Stage Manager **Louise Pearson**

Costume Supervisor **Merle Richards-Wright**

Lighting Programmer **Phil Baines**

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# fingersmiths

**fingersmiths**, an Associate at New Wolsey Theatre, create theatre with a multi-layered approach to language and physical expression. Always working in BSL and spoken or written English, we explore challenging and entertaining ways of presenting theatre, which previously have not been available to Deaf audiences in their own language.

**MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD** by Charlotte Keatley is our third co-production with regional theatres, having previously co-produced Bryony Lavery's **FROZEN** with Birmingham Rep and with New Wolsey Theatre, John Godber's **UP 'N' UNDER**

This production will tour nationally in Spring 2020.

[fingersmiths.org.uk](http://fingersmiths.org.uk)

*'This is a cracking company with an extraordinary USP'*

Bryony Lavery, Writer **FROZEN**



Photo by Alison Baskerville

## **FROZEN**

*'This is a production that sharpens your hearing by making you see language.'*

The Guardian \*\*\*\*\*

## **UP 'N' UNDER**

*'...the best Up 'n' Under I've seen for many a year'*

The Yorkshire Times

*'...the superb cast integrate British Sign Language with complete ease to give pleasure, inclusion and... laughter for any audience, all in one complete package'*

Behind the Arras



Photo by Mike Kwasniak



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