

THE **LYCEUM**
Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

**CITIZENS
THEATRE**

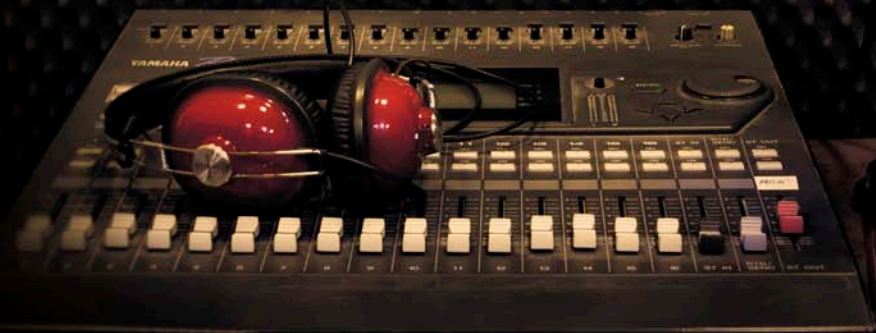
methuen | drama

TAKIN' OVER THE ASYLUM

Donna Franceschild



ON AIR



B L O O M S B U R Y

Donna Franceschild
Takin' Over the Asylum

Methuen Drama

Bloomsbury Methuen Drama

An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

50 Bedford Square	175 Fifth Avenue
London	New York
WC1B 3DP	NY 10010
UK	USA

www.bloomsbury.com

First published 2013

© Donna Franceschild, 2013

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publishers.

Donna Franceschild has asserted her right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, to be identified as Author of this work.

No responsibility for loss caused to any individual or organization acting on or refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication can be accepted by Bloomsbury or the author.

All rights whatsoever in this play are strictly reserved and application for performance etc. should be made before rehearsals begin *by professionals* to Alan Brodie Representation Ltd, www.alanbrodie.com, email: abr@alanbrodie.com, and *by amateurs* to Methuen Drama (Rights), Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP.
No performance may be given unless a licence has been obtained.

No rights in incidental music or songs contained in the Work are hereby granted and performance rights for any performance/ presentation whatsoever must be obtained from the respective copyright owners.

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN: PB: 978-1-4725-0746-4
ePDF: 978-1-4725-0508-8
ePub: 978-1-4725-0949-9

Typeset by Mark Heslington Ltd, Scarborough, North Yorkshire

Contents

Cast	ix
Characters	2
Act One	3
Scene One	3
Scene Two	9
Scene Three	16
Scene Four	24
Scene Five	32
Scene Six	40
Act Two	53
Scene One	53
Scene Two	63
Scene Three	69
Scene Four	79
Scene Five	87
Scene Six	99

A Citizens Theatre and
Royal Lyceum Theatre
co-production

Takin' Over the Asylum

By Donna Franceschild

Based on the scripts for the BBC television
serial written by Donna Franceschild.

This production was first performed at the
Citizens Theatre on 14 February 2013

Performances at the Citizens Theatre, Glasgow
14 February – 9 March 2013

Performances at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh
13 March – 6 April 2013

TAKIN' OVER THE ASYLUM @ DONNA FRANCESCHILD 2013

Copyright agent: Alan Brodie Representation Ltd
www.alanbrodie.com



TAKIN' OVER THE ASYLUM

By Donna Franceschild

Eddie	Iain Robertson
Campbell	Brian Vernel
Francine	Helen Mallon
Rosalie	Caroline Paterson
Fergus	Grant O'Rourke
Stuart	Martin McCormick
Evelyn	Molly Innes
Aileen	Gayle Madine
Hector	Gregor Firth
Margaret	Lucy Hollis
Nurse	Aaron Jones (Lyceum Youth Theatre) Scott McKay (Citizens Young Co.)

Director	Mark Thomson
Designer	Alex Lowde
Lighting Designer	Chris Davey
Assistant Director	Caro Donald

The playscript that follows was correct at the time of going to print but may have changed during rehearsal.

CREATIVE TEAM

DONNA FRANCESCHILD | WRITER

Donna Franceschild's theatre credits include *Tap Dance on a Telephone Line* (Tricycle Theatre), *Songs for Stray Cats and Other Living Creatures* (Paines Plough), *Quartet* (Oran Mor) and *And the Cow Jumped Over the Moon* (Traverse Theatre). It was the television version of this play, for the BBC's *The Play on One* series, that led to her being commissioned to write a six-part drama serial about a radio station in a mental hospital. *Takin' Over the Asylum* became a cult hit when it was broadcast in 1994 and won a string of awards, including the BAFTA for Best Drama Serial, the Royal Television Society's award for Best Writer, and the Mental Health Media Award for Best TV Drama. Donna's subsequent television credits include *A Mug's Game*, *Eureka Street*, *The Key* and the BAFTA nominated *Donovan Quick*. In addition to her numerous radio drama credits, she has written on mental health issues for Guardian Society, Mental Health Today and Radio Scotland, and is very proud of her work as a ChildLine counsellor. She has lived with bipolar disorder since long before it was fashionable, and describes it as "about as glamorous as Irritable Bowel Syndrome and just as messy."

MARK THOMSON | DIRECTOR

Mark has been Artistic Director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company since April 2003, during which time he has directed over twenty productions including world premières of Jo Clifford's *Every One* and Goethe's *Faust* parts one and two, *Six Black Candles* and *Monks* by Des Dillon, John Byrne's *Uncle Varick*, D C Jackson's *The Marriage of Figaro* as well as his own plays: *A Madman Sings to the Moon*, *Pinocchio*, his adaptation of James Hogg's *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* and, in 2011, the acclaimed *Wondrous Flitting*.

Mark was Artistic Director of the Brunton Theatre Company from 1997 to 2002, directing 21 shows and winning a Herald Angel Award for his play *A Madman Sings to the Moon*, and a Scotsman Fringe First and a Herald Angel Award for his play *Moving Objects*. Prior to that, he was Assistant Director at the Theatre Royal Stratford East and the Royal Shakespeare Company and Associate Director at Nottingham Playhouse.

ALEX LOWDE | DESIGNER

Alex studied Drama at Hull University before completing the Motley Theatre Design Course. He has worked extensively as an associate and assistant designer including work at the Royal National Theatre, Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne, Zurich Opera, Metropolitan Opera and Broadway.

In 2007 he was selected as part of the UK team exhibiting at the Prague Quadrennial with his designs for *Tobias and the Angel* which opened the newly rebuilt Young Vic.

Alex won the Best Design category at the Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland (CATS) in 2008/09 and 2009/10 with his designs for *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Elephant Man* at Dundee Rep. This production was also nominated for Best Design at 2010 TMA Awards.

Theatre credits include: *Victoria Station/One For The Road* (The Young Vic); *Blake Diptych* (Laban and Southbank Centre); *A Clockwork Orange* (Stratford East); *The Marriage of Figaro* (Royal Lyceum Theatre); *A Doll's House*, *Anna Karenina*, *Equus*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Elephant Man* and *Beauty and the Beast* (Dundee Rep Theatre); *Adventures of Mr Brouček* (Opera North and Scottish Opera co-production); *The Lion's Face* (The Opera Group and ROH2); *While You Lie* (Traverse Theatre); *The Marriage of Figaro* (Sadlers Wells and Ascoli Piceno); *The Gentle Giant* (Royal Opera House Education); *Tobias and the Angel* (The Young Vic); *Paradise Moscow* (Royal Academy of Music); *The Nose* (The Opera Group and ROH2); *Candide* (Buxton Festival); *The Threepenny Opera* (Richmond Theatre); *Triptych* (Cambridge University); *Angelic to Alnwick*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Newcastle Playhouse); *New Writing Season Paines Plough* (Finborough Theatre).

Television, film and radio credits include: *Beyond the Rave* (Hammer Horror/Puregrass films).

CHRIS DAVEY | LIGHTING DESIGNER

Chris has designed extensively for *High Society* (Music and Lyrics Limited), Royal National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Shared Experience, Royal Court, Royal Exchange Manchester, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Birmingham Rep and Hampstead Theatre. He has won three Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland Best Design Awards for *Anna Karenina* at the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh and *Beauty and the Beast* and *Peer Gynt* at Dundee Rep. He also won the TMA Best Lighting Design for *Dial M for Murder* (West Yorkshire Playhouse) and *Beyond the Horizon* (Royal and Derngate, Northampton).

Theatre designs in Scotland include: *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Peter Pan*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Art*, *Anna Karenina*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *Lavender Blue*, *The Deep Blue Sea*, *Clay Bull*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Royal Lyceum Theatre), *Betrayal* (Citizens Theatre), *Anna Karenina*, *The Firebird*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Peer Gynt* (Dundee Rep Theatre), *The Last Witch* (Edinburgh International Festival/Traverse Theatre), *Three Thousand Troubled Threads* (Edinburgh International Festival/Stellar Quines Theatre Company), *Pornography*, *Family*, *Passing Places*, *Greta* (Traverse Theatre), *When I Was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout*, *Twelfth Night*, *Moving Objects* (Brunton Theatre), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Levelland* (Assembly Rooms), *The Vagina Monologues* (Playhouse), and *Matthew Bourne's The Car Man* (Festival Theatre) and *The Lord of the Flies* (Theatre Royal Glasgow).

Opera credits include: *Madame Butterfly* (Oslo), *Queen of Spades* (Opera North), *Romeo et Juliette* (Opera Ireland), *Hippolyte et Aricie* (Nationale Reisopera Netherlands), *L'Arbore di Diana* (Valencia), *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (Opera North, Melbourne, Sydney Opera House), *Skellig* (The Sage Gateshead), *Aida* (Houston), *Bird of Night* (Royal Opera House), *Bluebeard* (Bregenz), *Jephtha* (English National Opera / Welsh National Opera, Copenhagen), *The Magic Flute* (Welsh National Opera), eight seasons for Grange Park Opera, *The Rake's Progress*, *The Turn of the Screw* (Aldeburgh Festival) and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Monte Carlo).

CARO DONALD | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Theatre credits include: *White Noise* (ThickSkin), *The Parade* - BBC Writersroom (Live Theatre), *Toast* (Strange Theatre), *Imagi-Portrait* (Imagine Festival Fringe), *The Distance Between Us* (Fishbowl) and *Cable* (Stadium Rock).

Theatre credits as Assistant Director include: *Blackout* (ThickSkin) and *What's the Point in Us?* (Stadium Rock).

Caro is a Creative Practitioner for ThickSkin Theatre Company, a member of the Traverse's Emerging Directors group and founding member of The Spark Collective. She has worked throughout Scotland as a facilitator for companies including ThickSkin, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Lyceum Youth Theatre, National Theatre of Scotland, Promote YT (Scotland), Platform and Citizens Young Co. Her Assistant Directorship is supported by the Federation of Scottish Theatre with funding from Creative Scotland.

CAST

GREGOR FIRTH | HECTOR

Theatre credits include: *Cinderella* and *Beauty and the Beast* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks & Raging Queens* (InsideOut Productions), *Class Act*, *Words, Words, Words*, *Scribble* and *While You Lie* (Traverse Theatre), *Moby Dick* (Spymonkey), *Wide Open* (The Arches), *Hangover* (Collabor-8 Productions) and the rehearsed reading, *Life* (Scottish Playwright Society).

Musical credits include: *Company* (InsideOut Productions), *The 12 Tenors of China Tour* (World Wide Events) and *Putting It Together* (Sommerhouse Productions).

Opera credits include: *Ten Plagues* (Traverse Theatre).

Gregor has also appeared in BBC's *River City* and has written material for the Write Here Festival as well as appearing in the 'Lets Work Together' commercial for the Scottish National Party.

LUCY HOLLIS | MARGARET

Lucy is currently Actor Intern at the Citizens Theatre and recently appeared as Beauty in *Sleeping Beauty*. Lucy graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland where she worked with Vanishing Point's Matthew Lenton, playing Mina in Liz Lohead's *Dracula*. During her third year, Lucy also took part in National Theatre of Scotland's Arab Spring Season at the Òran Mór, playing Farah in *Could You Please Look Into The Camera*.

MOLLY INNES | EVELYN

Theatre credits include: *The Guid Sisters*, 27 (National Theatre of Scotland/Royal Lyceum Theatre), *Wondrous Flitting*, *Age of Arousal*, *Pinocchio*, *Faust* parts one and two, *A Listening Heaven*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (Royal Lyceum Theatre), *Tartuffe* (Òran Mór), *Sleeping Queen* (King's Theatre, Glasgow), *Beachcomber*, *Blooded* (Boilerhouse), *Great Expectations* (Perth Theatre), *Artist Man*, *Mother Woman*, *The Found Man*, *One Day All This Will Come to Nothing*, *Greenfield*, *A Solemn Mass for a Full Moon in Summer*, *Widows*, *Shining Souls*, *Cross Dressing in the Depression*, *Stones and Ashes* (Traverse Theatre), *Good Things* (Borderline / Byre Theatre / Perth Theatre), *The Memory of Water*, *Wit* (Stellar Quines), *The Good Women of Setzuan*, *Antigone* (TAG), *Plasticine* (Royal Court Theatre), *Moving Objects* (Brunton Theatre) and *Electra* (Theatre Babel).

Television credits include: *Holby City* (BBC), *Taggart* (SMG), *Psychos* (Channel 4), *The Bill* (Thames Television), *A Mug's Game* (BBC), *Strathblair* (BBC), *The Ferguson Theory* (BBC), *Rab C. Nesbitt* (BBC) and *Takin' Over the Asylum* (BBC).

Film credits include: *Ratcatcher* (Holy Cow) and *Karmic Mothers* (Fresh Films).

Radio credits include: *Desperate Measures*, *Folie à Trois*, *The Gowk Storm*, *The Fourth Foreigner*, *Bill 'N' Koo*, *Some of my Best Friends are Dolphins* (BBC Radio 4), *Terror* (BBC Scotland) and *A Tall One* (Catherine Bailey Productions).

Molly received a commendation at the Ian Charleson/NT Awards and was nominated for a Stage Award (Acting Excellence) and a CATS Award (Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland).

GAYLE MADINE | AILEEN

Theatre credits include: *Body of Water* (Made From Scratch), *Loyal Women* (Greenwich Theatre), *The Master and Margarita*, *As You Like It*, *One for the Road* and *American Clock* (Rose Bruford College), *A Ghost at Canterville* (Smile Theatre), *Blind Date* (Southwark Playhouse).

Film credits include: *Paper. Scissors. Stone* (Babaloo Films) and *Dark Hope* (Multimedia Workshop).

Other credits include: *The Panopticon* (Rushforth Media – audio book) and *The Word Man* (BBC Radio/Urban Scrawl)

HELEN MALLON | FRANCINE

Theatre credits include: *Roman Bridge* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Lettice and Lovage* (Watermill Theatre), *Theatre Uncut* (Traverse Theatre), *The Uncertainty Files* (Paines Plough), *The Good Soldier* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Be Near Me* (National Theatre of Scotland/Donmar Warehouse), *Cockroach* (National Theatre of Scotland/Traverse Theatre), *365* (National Theatre of Scotland/Lyric Hammersmith), *Peter Pan* (Citizens Theatre), *Wolves in the Walls* (National Theatre of Scotland/Improbable), *Hansel and Gretel* (Arches Theatre Company) and *Tutti Frutti* (National Theatre of Scotland).

Television and film credits include : *Casualty* (BBC) and *Senseless* (Plum Films/Matador).

MARTIN MCCORMICK | STUART

Theatre credits include: *Cinderella* (Royal Lyceum Theatre), *Biding Time, I confess* (The Arches), *Pass the Spoon* (Magnetic North), *Double Nugget* (Random Accomplice), *Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco*, *It Was A Beautiful Day, Defender Of The Faith* (Tron Theatre), *Beauty and the Beast* (Eden Court), *The Ching Room* (Manchester Royal Exchange Studio), *Decky Does A Bronco* (Grid Iron), *Gabriel* (Óran Mór), *Bright Black* (Vox Motus), *Peer Gynt* (NTS/Dundee Rep), *Under My Skin* (Paines Plough), *Yarn* (Grid Iron/ Dundee Rep Theatre), *Romeo & Juliet and Jack and the Beanstalk* (Dundee Rep Theatre).

TV credits include: *Hollyoaks Later* (Lime Pictures), *Taggart and Rebus* (SMG).

GRANT O'ROURKE | FERGUS

Theatre credits include: *Cinderella, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, The Marriage of Figaro, Romeo and Juliet, The Cherry Orchard, Wondrous Flitting* (Royal Lyceum Theatre), *The Agony and Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* (Gilded Balloon), *Othello* (Citizens Theatre), *Richard III, The Taming of the Shrew* (Bard in the Botanics), *Arcadia, Outlying Islands and Taking Sides*, (Pitlochry Festival Theatre).

TV credits include: *Bob Servant* (BBC Four), *Scot Squad* (The Comedy Unit), *How Not To Live Your Life* (BBC 3), *High Times* (STV) and *Still Game* (BBC/The Comedy Unit). Film credits include: *Up There* (Wilder Films) and *Crying With Laughter* (Synchronicity Films).

CAROLINE PATERSON | ROSALIE

Theatre credits include: *Perfect Days* (Oldham Coliseum), *Macbeth* (Raindog) and *Twelfth Night* (TAG).

TV credits include: *Holby City, Spooks, Eastenders* (BBC), *Skins* (Company Pictures), *Coronation Street* (Granada Television), *Taggart* (SMG) and *The Necklace* (Warner Sisters).

Film credits include: *Long Distance Information* (HSI London), *Last Word* (Stigma Films) and *Venus Peter* (BFI). Caroline was the winner of Best Actress at Rheims 2004 for playing the part of Rosemary in *Rehab* (BBC Films).