

methuen | drama

POMONA

ALISTAIR McDOWALL

B L O O M S B U R Y

Alistair McDowall

Pomona

Bloomsbury Methuen Drama

An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

B L O O M S B U R Y

LONDON • NEW DELHI • NEW YORK • SYDNEY

Bloomsbury Methuen Drama

An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

Imprint previously known as Methuen Drama

50 Bedford Square
London
WC1B 3DP
UK

1385 Broadway
New York
NY 10018
USA

www.bloomsbury.com

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First published 2015

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

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

ISBN: PB: 978-1-4742-3601-0

ePDF: 978-1-4742-3602-7

ePub: 978-1-4742-3603-4

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

Series: Modern Plays

Typeset by Country Setting, Kingsdown, Kent CT14 8ES

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POMONA

A new play by
Alistair McDowall

First performance at the Orange Tree Theatre
on 12 November 2014

Pomona

a new play by Alistair McDowall

Cast
in order of speaking

Zeppo	Guy Rhys
Ollie	Nadia Clifford
Fay	Rebecca Humphries
Keaton	Sarah Middleton
Gale	Grace Thurgood
Moe	Sean Rigby
Charlie	Sam Swann
Director	Ned Bennett
Designer	Georgia Lowe
Lighting Designer	Elliot Griggs
Composer	
and Sound Designer	Giles Thomas
Movement Director	Polly Bennett
Fight Director	Pam Donald
Assistant Designer	Katy Mills
Casting Consultant	Juliet Horsley
Production Manager	Stuart Burgess
Deputy Stage Manager	Becky Flisher
Assistant Stage Managers	Sophie Acreman Rachel Middlemore

First commissioned and performed by the Royal
Welsh College of Music and Drama on 1 April 2014.

The cast was Ella Cook, Annes Elwy, Claire Inie-Richards,
Sam Rix, Thalissa Teixeira, Bertie Taylor-Smith
and Joe Windsor.

Publicity photo by Stuart Burgess
(mask design: Isa Shaw-Abulafia)

Biographies

NADIA CLIFFORD | Ollie

Nadia trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre includes: *Hobson's Choice* (Regent's Park); *Secret Cinema 21*; *Piigs* (Royal Court); *Clean* (Traverse); *Old Money* (Hampstead); *The Breakout* (Theatre Uncut/Young Vic); *One Hour Only* (Underbelly/Old Vic New Voices); *Twelfth Night* (Greenaway Productions); *Brightest and Best* (We Were Here/Pilot Light); *Through The Night* (Finborough); *Coasting* (Bristol Old Vic Studio); *Country Music* (Trafalgar Studios).

REBECCA HUMPHRIES | Fay

Theatre includes: *Primetime* (Royal Court); *I Am a Camera* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Kitchen* (National Theatre); *24 Hour Plays* (Old Vic).

TV includes: *Cockroaches*, *Big Bad World*, *Sean Walsh World*, *Cardinal Burns*, *Come Fly With Me*.

SARAH MIDDLETON | Keaton

Sarah trained at Birmingham School of Acting.

Theatre includes: *Fings Ain't What They Used T'Be* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *The Tempest*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (European tour); *Peter Pan* (Qdos); *The Night Queen* (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry/Hoopla).

TV includes: *Over the Rainbow*.

Film includes: *Criminal*, *Toast*.

GUY RHYS | Zeppo

Guy trained at Drama Centre.

Theatre includes: *Wendy and Peter Pan* (RSC); *Star-Cross'd* (Oldham Coliseum); *A View From the Bridge* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Rafta Rafta* (Bolton Octagon/New Vic, Stoke); *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *The Power Book* (National Theatre); *Ali to Karim* (A2K USA); *The Allotment* (New Perspectives/Pleasance Edinburgh); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Clwyd Theatr Cymru); *Othello* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Murmuring Judges*, *Transmissions* (Birmingham Rep); *Romeo and Juliet* (Chichester Festival); *The Ramayana* (Birmingham Rep/National Theatre); *Hijra* (West Yorkshire Playhouse).

TV includes: *The Crimson Field*, *Doctors*, *The Bill*, *Fallout*, *Sorted*, *Emmerdale*, *Holby City*, *Fat Friends*, *No Angels*, *Outlaws*, *The Last Detective*, *A&E*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *Big Bad World 2*.

SEAN RIGBY | Moe

Sean trained at LAMDA.

Theatre includes: *Table Talk* (Short Backs and Sides); *Still Life/Red Peppers* (Folie a Deux); *Little Triggers* (Soggy Arts).

TV includes: *Endeavour*.

SAM SWANN | Charlie

Sam trained at LAMDA (Genesis Foundation Scholar).

Theatre includes: *Wendy and Peter Pan*, *Dunsinane* (RSC); *The Kitchen*, *Greenland* (National Theatre); *Primetime* (Royal Court); *Mercury Fur* (Trafalgar Studios); *Dr Korczak's Example*, *The Winter's Tale* (Unicorn Theatre); *Anne and Zef* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Powder Monkey* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *A Butcher of Distinction* (King's Head).

TV includes: *Gothic*, *Atlantis*, *Vicious*, *Privates*, *Doctors*, *Navid and Johnny*.

Radio includes: *Home Front*, *Obey the Wave*, *The Interrogation*, *The Trenches Trip*, *The Second Mrs Bailey*.

GRACE THURGOOD | Gale

Grace trained at RADA.

Theatre includes: *This Was a Man* (Finborough); *FRONT* (RADA Festival); *The Comedy of Errors* (National Theatre); *Corrie!* (national tour); *The 39 Steps* (Criterion, West End); *The London Exiles* (Soho Theatre), *Human*, *Street Artists* (Tristan Bates Theatre).

TV includes: *Silent Witness*, *King Makers*, *Walter's War*, *The Bill*, *EastEnders* (*Dot's Story*); *A Week of Dangerous Dressing*.

ALISTAIR McDOWALL | Writer

Alistair McDowall grew up in the North East of England.

Other plays include *Talk Show* (Royal Court, 2013), *Brilliant Adventures* (Royal Exchange/Live Theatre, 2013) and *Captain Amazing* (Live Theatre, 2013). Alistair has previously worked with the Royal Court, Royal Exchange, Live Theatre, Paines Plough and

the National Theatre Studio.

His work has been translated and produced internationally.

He lives in Manchester.

NED BENNETT | Director

Ned Bennett trained at LAMDA, on the NT Studio Directors' Course, and as Trainee Director at the Royal Court (2012–13).

As director: *Primetime* and *Pigeons* (Royal Court tours); *Lost in Theatre* (Royal Court); *Pomona* (RWCMD and The Gate); *Superior Donuts* (Southwark Playhouse); *Mercury Fur* (Old Red Lion/ Trafalgar Studios); *Blue Rabbits* (Temple Works); *Excellent Choice* (Vault Festival); *Mr Noodles* (Royal Exchange); *A Butcher of Distinction* (King's Head); *Selling Clive* (Lost Theatre); *Edmond* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); and *Smartcards* (Shunt Vaults).

As staff director: *Medea* (National Theatre).

As assistant director: *Pigeons*, *Death Tax*, *The President Has Come to See You*, *Collaboration*, *No Quarter*, *Narrative*, *If You Don't Let Us Dream We Won't Let You Sleep* and *The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge Mastromas* (Royal Court); *Of Mice and Men* (The Watermill); *A Letter to England* (Finborough); *Odetta* (Bridewell); *Vent* (Contact).

GEORGIA LOWE | Designer

Georgia was a Linbury Prize for Stage Design Finalist and Trainee Designer for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Recent designs include: *Far Away* (Young Vic); *Bluebeard's Castle* (Opera de Oviedo); *Last Words You'll Hear* (Almeida at Latitude); *Turfed* (LIFT Festival); *Alarms and Excursions* (Chipping Norton); *Eldorado* (Arcola Studio); *The Mystae and Ignorance* (Hampstead); *Cuckoo* (Unicorn); *Unscorched*, *Facts*, *Fog*, *Blue Surge*, *Follow*, *Fanny and Faggot* (Finborough); *The Ruling Class* (English Theatre Frankfurt); *Commonwealth* (Almeida); *Lift*, *Shallow Slumber* (Soho Theatre); *Pericles*, *Song of Songs* (RSC); *Promise* (Arts Ed); *Acis and Galatea*, *Susanna* (Ilford Opera); *Say It with Flowers* (Sherman Cymru); *After the Rainfall* (Curious Directive); *The Dark Side of Love* (RSC/LIFT/World Shakespeare Festival); *Yellow* (Tête à Tête Opera); *Drowning on Dry Land* (Jermyn Street Theatre); *Amphibians* (Bridewell Theatre); *Legacy Falls* (New Players); *Departure Lounge* (costumes only, Waterloo East); *Whispering Happiness* (Tristan Bates); *I Am Montana* (Arcola).

ELLIOT GRIGGS | Lighting Designer

Elliot trained in Stage Electrics and Lighting Design at RADA.

Recent lighting designs include: Olivier Award-nominated *Fleabag* (Soho Theatre); *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory's* 1st Anniversary Party (Hilton Waldorf, Aldwych), *CommonWealth* (Almeida Theatre); *Infanticide* (Camden People's Theatre); *He Had Hairy Hands* and *The Boy Who Kicked Pigs* (The Lowry, Manchester and touring), *Rachel, John Ferguson, Spokesong, Over the Bridge, Facts, Somersaults, The Soft of Her Palm, Crush, Perchance to Dream, Portraits, And I and Silence, Northern Star* (Finborough Theatre); *Belleville Rendez-Vous* (Greenwich Theatre); *Meat* (Theatre503); *Lagan* (Oval House Theatre); *The Bus, Treasure Island, Jack Off The Beanstalk* (Above the Stag, London); *Blues in the Night, Joe/Boy* (The Last Refuge, Peckham Rye); *Love Re:Imagined* (Only Connect); *Folk Contraption* (Spiegeltent, Southbank Centre); *Bitter Pleasures for a Sour Generation* (Soho Theatre); *Big Sean, Mikey and Me* (Tristan Bates Theatre, London/Edinburgh Fringe Festival); *The Custard Boys* (Tabard Theatre); *Brightest and Best* (Half Moon Theatre); *Dealing With Clair, One Minute, Nocturnal, dirty butterfly, Our Town* (RADA).

Elliot has been named New Talent in Entertainment Lighting for 2014 by the Association of Lighting Designers. He has also been awarded the Association of Lighting Designers' Francis Reid Award for his design portfolio (2011) and the ShowLight Award for his lighting design of *Elephant's Graveyard* (2009).

GILES THOMAS | Composer and Sound Designer

Composer and sound design credits include: *Wolf from the Door, Primetime, Untitled Matriarch Play, Mint, Pigeons, Death Tax, The President Has Come to See You* (Royal Court); *Lie With Me* (Talawa); *The Sound of Yellow* (Young Vic); *Take a Deep Breath and Breathe, The Street* (Oval House Theatre); *Stop Kiss* (Leicester Square Theatre).

Sound design credits include: *Khandan* (Birmingham Rep/Royal Court); *Superior Donuts* (Southwark Playhouse); *Three Men in a Boat* (Original Theatre Company, UK tour); *King John* (Union Theatre); *It's About Time* (Nabokov/Hampstead); *Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat* (Royal Court/The Gate; Out of Joint/Paines Plough/National Theatre); *House of Agnes* (Paines Plough).

Associate sound design credits include: *Henry V* (Michael Grandage Company, West End); *1984* (Headlong, UK tour).

Music production credits include: *An Appointment with the Wickerman* (National Theatre of Scotland).

Screen credits include: *Aurelia* (short); *Cern Hadron Collider Exhibition* (Science Museum); *Street Spirit* (short); *Last of the Oaks* (animated short).

Giles has also assisted with music technology and keyboard programming on many West End musicals including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Shrek*, *Wicked*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Top Hat*, *Matilda*; also *Medea* (National Theatre) and *The Sound of Music* (Regent's Park).

POLLY BENNETT | Movement Designer

Polly is a Movement Director and Choreographer working across the UK and internationally. She holds an MA in Movement from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and was Resident Company Movement Practitioner at the Royal Shakespeare Company 2013.

Polly was Assistant Movement Director on the London 2012 Opening Ceremony, Mass Cast Choreographer on the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony, and Mass Cast Choreographer on Sochi Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Recent credits include: *Hopelessly Devoted* (Paines Plough, UK tour); *Helver's Night* (York Theatre Royal); *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, UK tour); *The Angry Brigade* (Paines Plough, UK tour); *Ragnarok* (Eastern Angles); *Mock Tudor* (Pleasance, Theatre503); *Anna* (Aix-en-Provence International Festival); *Dunsinane* (National Theatre Scotland, UK and Asian tour); *nut* (National Theatre); *Fazer's Urban Symphony* (Royal Albert Hall/BBC); *Hysteria* (Hampstead Theatre); *A Mad World, My Masters* (RSC); *The Queen's Coronation Concerts* (Buckingham Palace/BBC); *Acis and Galatea* (Iford Opera); *Mudlarks* (Bush Theatre); *The Festival of Neighbourhood Finale* (Royal Festival Hall); *The Lights* (The Spring) and *Celebrity Night at Café Red* (Trafalgar Studios).

Orange Tree Theatre

'A pocket-sized National Theatre'

Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

We aim to stir, delight, challenge, move and amaze with a bold and continually evolving mix of new and re-discovered plays in our unique 172-seat in-the-round space. We want to change lives by telling remarkable stories from a wide variety of times and places, filtered through the singular imagination of our writers and the remarkable close-up presence of our actors.

A theatre of this scale, with the audience wrapped around the players, invites acting to be the centre of the experience. This is theatre as a figurative art: the human being literally at its centre. We want to experience voices and stories from our past and our present alongside visions of the future. Life as it's lived: unplugged and un-miked. Close-up magic. Truths the hand can touch.

Over its 42-year history the Orange Tree has had a very strong track record in discovering writers and promoting their early work, as well rediscovering artists from the past whose work had either been disregarded or forgotten. Martin Crimp, James Saunders, Vaclav Havel, Fay Weldon, Torben Betts were championed at early stages of their development, and the reputations of Rodney Ackland, Harley Granville Barker, Susan Glaspell, John Whiting and Githa Sowerby have undergone radical reassessment after seasons of their work at the Orange Tree.

orangetreetheatre.co.uk



Helen Baxendale in *The Distance* by Deborah Bruce
(photo: Helen Warner)



Jordan Mifsud and Ellie Piercy
in *The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd* by D.H. Lawrence
(photo: Mark Douet)