

A Royal Exchange Theatre
Young Company Production

22 - 24 August 2024

royalexchange.co.uk



THRESHOLD

Written by Young Company Writers Alumni

Rosa Gatley, Sharvi Rana & Jake Talbot

Supported by Becky Prestwich

Directed by Tian Glasgow

All performances will be captioned



Supported using public funding by
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Young Company Presents **THRESHOLD**



What kind of future do you imagine? More equality? Ending capitalism? Total personal freedom? Or is it hard to imagine a future at all?

THRESHOLD is the story of a community of colliding characters staring life-changing choices in the face. Is it the cusp of great change or is growing up just waiting for the future to happen?

This bold new play, created with and for the 2024 Young Company, brings together intersecting stories by three Young Company Writers Graduates: Rosa Gatley, Sharvi Rana and Jake Talbot. Mentored by playwright Becky Prestwich, this striking new work tackles head on the complex choices faced by young people in a fast-paced, ever-changing world. THRESHOLD is brought to the stage by director Tian Glasgow.

So, now the question is... what does the future look like to you?



Creative Team

DIRECTOR
Tian Glasgow

WRITERS
Rosa Gatley, Sharvi Rana and Jake Talbot, mentored by Becky Prestwich

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
Isabelle Brimson and Darina Siardzuik

DESIGNERS
Abrielle Bollard Girling, Ray Scullard, Young Company Makers, supported by Exauce Ikembo

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR
Yandass Ndlovu

SOUND DESIGNER
Tom Leah aka Werkha

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Isaac O'Brien

VOICE COACH
Rosemary Berkon

PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGER
Kate Eccles

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Gwendolyn Flint

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
Obesi Osi-Iyere and Leah Molden

PRODUCER
Scarlett Spiro-Beazley

ASSISTANT PRODUCER
Ruvarashe Nyakupinda

MAKERS LEAD
Debbie Bandara

YOUNG COMPANY MAKERS
Riah Betti, Abrielle Bollard Girling, Isabella Brimson, Evan Elsby, Gwendolyn Flint, Mariia Honiukova, Harvey Lawson, Leah Molden, Al Nelson, Obesi Osi-Iyere, Ray Scullard & Daryna Siardziuk

WRITERS LEAD
Billie Collins

YOUNG COMPANY WRITERS
Evie Clancey, Zorah Dodoo, Harriet Eaton, Joseph Greenaway, Lauren Guerriero, Jay Hackett, Libby Hall, Abigail Hutchison, Megan Jones, Hannah McCoy, Saleem Miah, Matt Needham, Yorusa Okbamichael, Zakib Sardar & Zachary Wahed

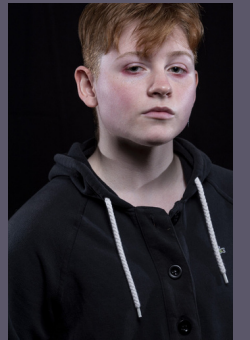
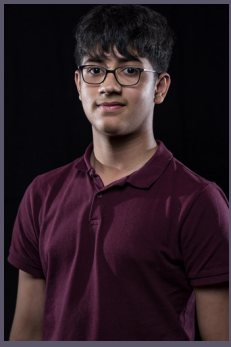
SOUND
Chantelle Scott

WARDROBE
Bridget Fell

REHEARSAL & PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY
Chris Payne

POSTER DESIGN
Jethro Pasaol

Cast



SUPERNUMERARIES

Emily Dawson-Masterson

Gray Walsh-Gleeson

Life Left by Rosa Gately

Life Left is about how the human parts don't leave us when the world is falling apart. It's twenty minutes to midnight on new year's eve in the past, present and the future. A breaks up with B in a cafe, C meets D at a party and E finds F on a hillside above the city -- and the world is about to end. maybe.

Mya Wilkinson Alison

Eleanor Furman-Gower Bethany

Anya Butterworth Charlotte

Isobel Atherton Daisy

Glorencia Wakudyanaye Eloise

Ashleigh Togaraseyi Freya

El Quinlan Ensemble

Anthony Awe Ensemble

ROSA GATELY, WRITER

Rosa Gately graduated from the University of Manchester last year and is now living in the city pursuing playwriting and directing. Having been in the Royal Exchange's Young Company Writers 2021-22 cohort and then selected for the inaugural 2022-23 Graduate Writers programme, she is delighted to be making her professional writing debut at a theatre she loves so much. In addition, Rosa is the Artistic Director of Fourfold Productions, and has written and directed work for the John Thaw Studio, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the Applecourt Arts Springboard Festival.

“Being selected to write THRESHOLD is nothing short of a dream come true. In the past few years I feel as if I have massively developed my playwriting craft, and this is largely down to the Young Company and all the opportunities it has given me. It really feels like a full circle moment getting to write for and work alongside the current Young Company after my graduation from the cohort two years ago! It has been a fantastic experience collaborating with Jake and Sharvi - playwriting can be such a lonely activity sometimes, and I've really enjoyed learning how to work together and create a piece that really showcases us as writers. I've also learned so much from Becky, Tian and Billie. I can't wait to see everything come together!”





The Light by Sharvi Rana

Set in a near-future world where borders are tightly controlled and only the exceptionally gifted are allowed to cross, *The Light* follows the journey of Roshni, a woman who ventures to the Frontier—a place where her dreams of becoming a writer might come true. However, Roshni quickly begins to uncover the truth behind the Frontier and the controlling mechanisms of a deeply divided world. *The Light* exposes the discrimination faced by immigrants in the UK and underscores the pressures of societal and personal expectations faced by women of colour. It explores the meaning of home, identity and the impact of storytelling in changing the world. It asks us to question how far we would be willing to put our lives at stake to take a stand against injustice and inequality.

Menahil Imran Roshni

Cai Louw James

Devon Finley-Reynolds Chief

Ahmed Hussain Pa

Maryam Sarfraz Ma

Emaani Sakina Alba

Ashleigh Togaraseyi Ensemble

Shakira Samms-Alcott Ensemble

Soad Abdalla Ensemble

Isobel Atherton The Barrier

Mya Wilkinson The Barrier

SHARVI RANA, WRITER

Born in Gurgaon, India, **Sharvi Rana** is a playwright and actor currently based in Manchester. She was the representative of the Young Writers for the Royal Exchange Theatre's Young Company (2022-23). She was one of the writers and actors in the Young Company's production of *Show Me the Money* which was staged in the studio in April 2023. Sharvi has performed her work with Switch MCR at the BIPOC Save Me A Seat Festival 2023 at 53two in Manchester. She has also worked as an ensemble actor in *The Devil Rides Out* musical which was staged in October 2022 at the Empty Space Theatre in Salford. She has a Silver Arts Award in filmmaking with the BFI. Sharvi works as an acting teacher with the theatre school Footlights. She is passionate about telling diverse stories, particularly those concerning the South-Asian diaspora, and empowering the BIPOC community on stage and screen. She is currently in her second year studying Drama and English Literature at the University of Manchester.

“Being a part of the Young Writers gave me a jumpstart into the world of playwriting. It was an incredibly inspiring and educating experience that taught me the complexities of writing. It gave me the motivation to pursue it as a career. Our weekly sessions with Naomi Sumner created a safe space where stories of the BIPOC community could be championed.

My experience of writing *THRESHOLD* has been highly rewarding. The writer's room sessions with Becky, Tian, and Billie greatly enhanced my creative process and encouraged me to write *The Light*. Their feedback on the script always motivated me to improve and made the experience very fulfilling. For *THRESHOLD*, I wanted to imagine what the future would look like for young people of colour, particularly women, and tell a story that underscores the pressure of the societal and personal expectations that they face. I was inspired to write *The Light* by the migrant crisis and the discrimination faced by immigrants in the UK. The current far-right riots that are targeting people of colour have made *The Light* more relevant than ever in our political landscape.”

The Box by Jake Talbot

What is the box you put yourself in? Or that the people around you put you in? Or that society puts you in? In the world of 'The Box', Charlie is new to 'The Box', Jamie and Georgia are on the edge of 'The Box', Big Sib & Little Sib discuss 'The Box' and Eddie is scared of his box.

Anthony Awe Charlie

Ella Fraser The Box Keeper

El Quinlan Little Sib

Cai Louw Big Sib

Shakira Samms-Alcott Georgia

Glorencia Wakudyanaye Jamie

Devon Finley-Reynolds Eddie

Eleanor Furman-Gower The Box

Soad Abdalla The Box

Emaani Sakina The Box

Ahmed Hussain The Box

Maryam Sarfraz The Box

JAKE TALBOT, WRITER

Jake Talbot is a playwright from Oldham. He is also the Co-Artistic Director of Dare to Know Theatre, a theatre company based in Oldham committed to making work with and for the people of Oldham. Jake is a Bruntwood Prize Long-Listed & Theatre503 International Playwriting Award Long-Listed playwright, his writing journey began with 'Drowning' a semi-autobiographical one-man play, which led to a string of over ten plays to date, performed up and down the country.

"I started with the Royal Exchange all the way back in 2019 with The Royal Exchange's Young Company, which was the perfect opportunity as a youngster to embrace myself with more theatre, more plays and to surround myself with likeminded creatives. Then in 2023, I was invited back to be a part of The Graduate Writer's Programme, where the Royal Exchange and Paddy Hughes supported me in the beginnings of what has now become 'Broken Boys' a play that's currently in rehearsals due to be performed at 53Two this August.

Now, I'm extremely grateful to be back, as one of the writers of the 2024 Young Company show, THRESHOLD. It's been an absolute joy to be back in the theatre, to be working with an amazing team of writers, supported by Becky Prestwich. To have the opportunity to be in the rehearsal room, which is every theatre makers favourite place, either that or the bar! And as always, it's incredibly exciting to be working with young people, their passion, enthusiasm and talent makes me excited for the future of not just The Royal Exchange but of theatre in Greater Manchester. Now, without a theatre in my hometown of Oldham, The Royal Exchange has and hopefully always will feel like my home theatre."



TIAN GLASGOW, DIRECTOR

Tian Glasgow (he/him) is a queer cis Black man.

He grew up in London but has lived in Manchester since 2019.

He founded the theatre company New Slang Productions in 2011.

The thread running through his work is social concerns such as race and class and how it affects communities.

In early 2012, his debut production Silver Shores was staged at the Tristan Bates Theatre and a few years after that in 2015 his sophomore effort Changing State was staged at the Hen & Chickens Theatre. He wrote and directed both plays.

He created Race Today across 2016 - 2019 which was supported by the Barbican Centre, Bernie Grant Arts Centre and Arts Council to give a platform for new emerging writers of colour to speak frankly

about PoC experience via short vignettes and together create one piece of uncompromising but ultimately forward-looking art. Most recently, his piece Tomorrow is not Promised, which was developed at The Lowry with Sustained Theatre Up North, had its premiere at The Lowry in 2022, debut in Underbelly at the Edinburgh Fringe and has been touring the UK during 2024. Tian received the 2024 LGBT Foundation CREATE Bursary to begin work on new piece Code Switch and share first ideas at TURN ON Festival and the GM LGBT Conference.

Alongside his role at the Royal Exchange Tian also teaches acting at LIPA and is the Arts Emergency Manchester Mentoring Officer.

“‘Is growing up just waiting for the future to happen’, was such a fruitful question to begin the creation of this new piece. Looking to the future has been an integral part of my art since the pandemic and it was amazing to find out what this Young Company felt about that having been coming of age when it disrupted their lives. It made for incredible discussions in the writers and rehearsal room around how hard it is to make big decisions with the possibility of everything stopping again. How to throw yourself into the future with purpose and hope.

This whole process has left me so full of inspiration, excitement and pride of what we have achieved with this Young Company, That although bittersweet to say goodbye, we will be finishing their year in spectacular fashion which we couldn't have done without the support of all the incredible teams and departments of the Royal Exchange”



ROSEMARY BERKON, VOICE COACH

Rosemary is a Masters trained voice coach and actor, she trained as a voice coach at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and as an actor at ALRA.

She has coached West End actors, rising star screen actor's and holds associations with prestigious drama schools. She holds associate fellowship from the Higher Education Academy and has been presented with awards for excellence both as an actor and a teacher.

She has worked to create theatre that emphasises community engagement with companies Odd Arts, Papatango, Quantum Theatre and Byteback Theatre. She was a monologue slam (Tri-Force Productions) semi-finalist at Theatre Royal Stratford East.

Rosemary is an alumni of the Young Company at The Royal Exchange, she played Nana in 'The North' by Sarah McDonald-Hughes directed by Andy Barry and is thrilled to be back at the Exchange working with the young company on THRESHOLD!

TOM LEAH AKA WERKHA, SOUND DESIGNER

Hailing from Manchester with roots in the Cumbrian north, Werkha (real name Tom Leah) and his foot stomping, jazz inflected beats have been gracing the airwaves for the best part of a decade.

Influenced as much by the rolling fells surrounding his village home as those hot sweaty times we share on the dancefloor. Werkha makes music for those crucial moments, the ones that make us feel connected as humans. When the bustle of city life comes up against the steadiness of rural perspective.

Fascinated by this dichotomy, it's the interrelationship between these two worlds and how they weave together that inspires Werkha to write. This push and pull is reflected both in his process and in the music. Striving to make something which straddles both worlds, Werkha creates dance music with a head and a heart.





YANDASS NDLOVU, MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

Yandass Ndlovu is the founder of I M Pact Collective. Current Manchester International Festival Creative Fellow. First Class BA Hons Dance and Performance at the Arden School of Theatre (2019).

Movement Directing & Choreographing Credits include Bloody Elle (Royal Exchange Theatre) Everything All Of The (Contact Theatre); A pretty shitty love (Theatr Clwyd); Cryptomnesia (Future Ventures & ACE); [M]others (Co:lab- Royal Exchange Theatre); See Me After (HOME theatre); Yandass.mov & Run Boy Run (Channel 4, Random Acts); Breathe 2 (Manchester International Festival). I M Pact credits include: LETS GO-supported by The Lowry, HOME, The Portico Library, Contact, Opera House , Manchester, International Anthony Burgess Foundation, Manchester Museum, Royal Exchange Theatre; All I Want For Christmas (Royal Exchange Theatre x I M Pact); QueerContact (Contact Theatre); I M Pact Dance Lab (Lowry).

Yandass is an alumni of the Royal Exchange Theatre Young Company.

BECKY PRESTWICH, WRITERS' MENTOR

Becky Prestwich has written multiple episodes for Doctors, Casualty and Holby City. She has written six Afternoon Dramas for BBC Radio 4 – including Just The Three Of Us – nominated for a Tinniswood Award for best audio drama. She has written for BBC3 and has an original pilot in development with Rollem Productions. As a playwright, she specialises in work with community casts and in non-traditional theatre spaces, including Chip Shop Chips (Box of Tricks Theatre), Under the Market Roof (Junction 8 Theatre) and One Night in Bolton (Octagon Theatre). Becky is currently an Associate Playwright at Box of Tricks Theatre.



ABRIELLE BOLLARD GIRLING, ASSISTANT DESIGNER

Abrielle is one of the designers on THRESHOLD. Abrielle believes this production has been such a great opportunity to learn more about being a designer for theatre, gaining first hand experience of that role. She has been part of the Royal Exchange Young Company Makers for a year and in this time she has done a range of workshops, giving her an insight into the world of theatre, behind the scenes. It's given Abrielle the opportunity to work on the young company play "We're Bloody Marvellous" as one of the designers.

Currently Abrielle is doing her A levels at college, one of which is Drama. After college she is planning on studying theatre at university. Abrielle has also volunteered with other arts organisations in Manchester such as Community Arts Northwest (CAN). Working in a career in the arts is something Abrielle wants to pursue and an area that she feels deeply passionate about. She particularly looks forward to future opportunities to work within theatre design.

ISABELLA BRIMSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Isabella is a 3rd Year Music & Drama student at the University of Manchester and an aspiring young director. She has really enjoyed being apart of Young Company for the past year as it provided her so many opportunities to explore the different aspects of theatre making that strengthen her skills as a director. Alongside young company, she has stage managed for two musical theatre productions at the University. As well as co-directing and designing the University's recent Opera. She looks forward to seeing the final product of the past few weeks.

GWENDOLYN FLINT, DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER

Gwen is an aspiring stage manager who's just been in this year's cohort of Makers at the Royal Exchange Theatre's Young Company. After working behind the scenes on productions at school, Gwen found a love for backstage theatre is about to start a course of study in Technical Theatre. She hopes to work on big productions touring the country one day and continue stage management. This is the first show Gwen's worked on as a Deputy Stage Manager and she hopes you all enjoy THRESHOLD!

RAY SCULLARD, ASSISTANT DESIGNER

Ray (They/he) is an assistant designer for THRESHOLD. They have a degree in mixed media 3D craftsmanship where they learned skills like textiles, woodwork, metalwork and glass blowing. Ray is currently working fulltime at a restaurant in Manchester as a senior, but they plan to continue to follow a more creative path which is why they have enjoyed being a part of creative, collaborative groups like this - The Young Company at The Royal Exchange Theatre.

DARYNA SIARDZIUK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Daryna is one of the Assistant Directors of THRESHOLD. For the past year she has been a member of the Royal Exchange Young Company Makers. She is currently doing her A-levels, and has done performing arts for her whole life. In the past year Daryna started to try out a more directorial role, which is currently a passion she wants to pursue. This year Daryna has also written and directed her first short film for A-Level Film studies, which has been a success. Daryna will be going into year 13 this Autumn. A year from now she hopes to be going into university to do maths and continue drama/film as a hobby.

THRESHOLD has been an amazing experience of working in a big team and taking responsibility of different elements that make up a show. Daryna is incredibly grateful for the opportunities that the Royal Exchange has provided



Young Company

Young Company is for young people who are looking for a welcoming space to be creative and connect with others, as well as those with a curiosity about theatre who want to develop skills within the North West's largest and only full-time text based producing theatre.

Performers 1 (ages 14-17) & Performers 2 (ages 18-21) are for people who like performing, acting, working in groups and trying out new styles of theatre. Makers (ages 16-21) is for those interested in the behind-the-scenes areas of making theatre such as directing, lighting & sound, design, stage management & producing. Writers (ages 16-25) is for anyone who likes storytelling and is interested in writing for stage. You might be a poet or a songwriter but want to learn more about playwriting.

Collective

Collective is for creatives aged 14 - 25.

Become a member to gain access to:

Free workshops and discounted projects

Unique special offers and discounted tickets

The opportunity to join us and our VIP guests for press night – a limited number of press night tickets will be available on a first come first served basis

A digital newsletter with creative opportunities, events and news

Performance opportunities

20% off at Rivals Cafe and Bar

Or book the workshops and projects that interest you for up to £10 per workshop.

Arts Pot can support membership fees, workshop & project fees, as well as travel within Greater Manchester. [Find out about Arts Pot here](#)

Visit [Young People - Royal Exchange Theatre](#) to find out more about our work with young people or email engage@royalexchange.co.uk

Royal Exchange Theatre

Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre Company transforms the way people see theatre, each other and the world around them. Our historic building was taken over by artists in 1976 and today it is an award-winning cultural charity that produces new theatre in-the-round, in communities, on the road and online. Exchange remains at the heart of everything we make and do. Our currency is brand new drama and reinvigorated classics, the boldest artists and a company of highly skilled makers - all brought together in a shared imaginative endeavour to trade ideas and experiences with the people of Greater Manchester (and beyond).

Stay in touch @ rxtheatre    

As part of RET's commitment to reduce our carbon footprint, all costume, set and props have been sourced from RET existing stock or bought second hand.

Supported by the Noël Coward Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust and the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust. We would also like to thank our donors, members and partners who continue to support the work we do.